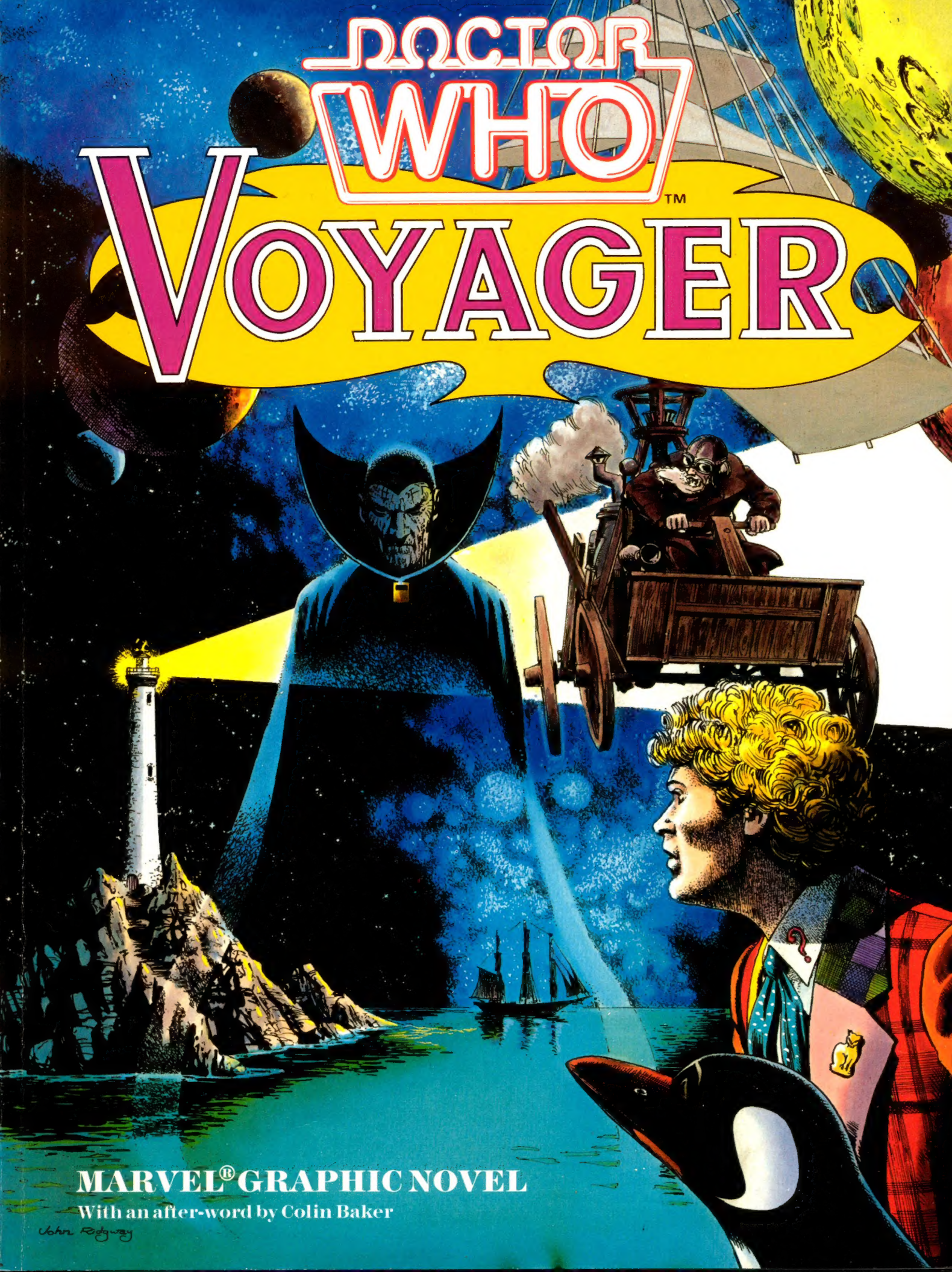
DOCTOR WHO™

VOYAGER



MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVEL

With an after-word by Colin Baker

John Ridgway

A MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVEL

VOYAGER

A DOCTOR WHO™ ADVENTURE

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The Shape-Shifter, Voyager, Polly The Glot edited by Alan McKenzie; *Once Upon A Time-Lord* edited by Ian Rimmer. *Voyager* Graphic Novel logo by Richard Starkings.

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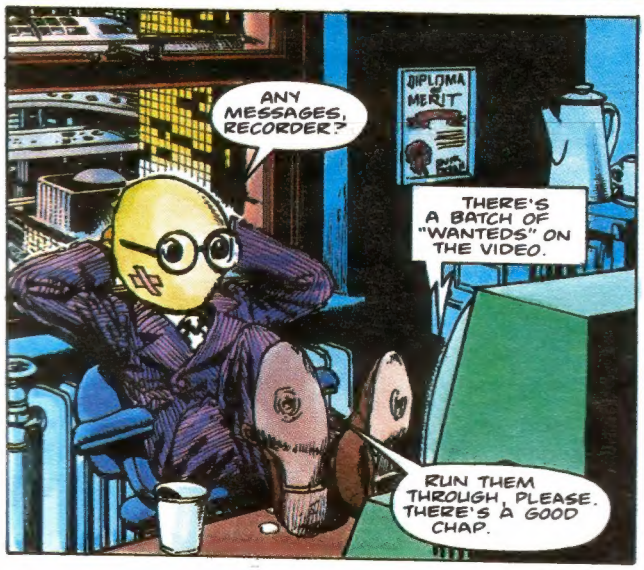
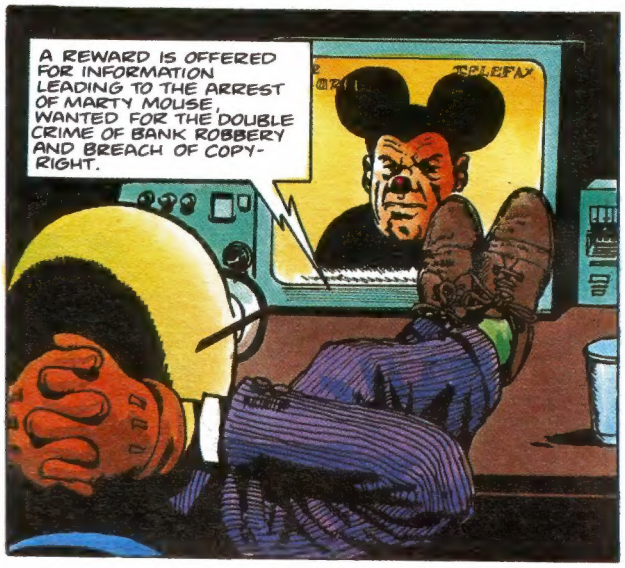
The SHAPE SHIFTER

SNEAKY? YOU SAID IT...
BUT THE WHIFFERDILL HAD A CRUST TO EARN, JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE. AND BESIDES, HE WAS GOOD AT IT...
YES, THIS PARTICULAR WHIFFERDILL WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR..
BUT NO GREAT SHAKES AS A PIGEON...
FOR EVEN IN THE CITY, PREDATORS ABOUND...
WHEEEEEEEEEEEE
CLOMP!
AAARGH!

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE WHIFFERDILL MADE A SOFT LANDING...
CLONGGG!
AND FINDING ITS NEW SURROUNDINGS AMENABLE, INSTINCTIVELY CHANGED TO SUIT THE OCCASION...
LESSEE WHUT'S FERDINNER... HEH, HEH.. HIC!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WELLL WHUDDYA KNOW? ITSABURGER... I COULD RILLY MURDER A BURGER... YEP...
UNK
AAAARGH!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE SPACE OF MERE MINUTES THE WHIFFERDILL HAD BEEN THOUGHT OF AS JUST PROTEIN. IT HAD FORGOTTEN ITS OWN PERSONAL MOTTO: "HE WHO HESITATES IS LUNCH."

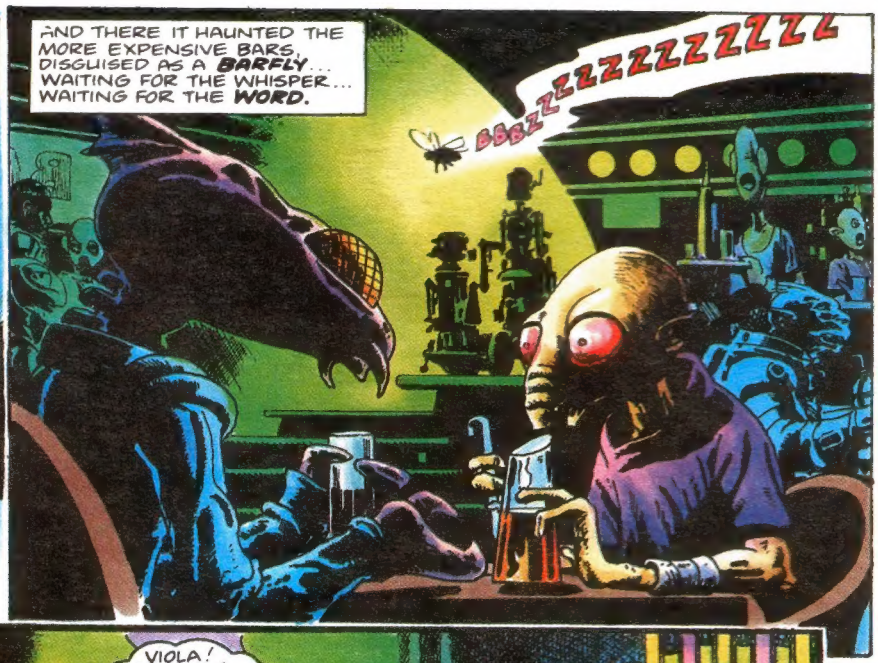
OVER THE NEXT TWO HOURS IT RAN THE GAUNTLET OF THOSE MEAN STREETS, HUNTED AND HAUNTED BY EVERY NIGHT-STALKER IN THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD... UNTIL...
MADE IT! JUST ONE SHORT DASH AND I'M HOME...
AYAN TARKLU PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
I'M WASTING MY LIFE. HERE I AM, FORTY FIVE YEARS OLD, A CLASSICAL EDUCATION... AND WHAT AM I DOING?
RUMMAGING IN DUSTBINS!


ANY MESSAGES, RECORDER?
DIPLOMA MERIT
THERE'S A BATCH OF "WANTEDS" ON THE VIDEO.
RUN THEM THROUGH, PLEASE. THERE'S A GOOD CHAP.


A REWARD IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF MARTY MOUSE, WANTED FOR THE DOUBLE CRIME OF BANK ROBBERY AND BREACH OF COPY-RIGHT.
TELEFAX

F213
770616 CODE AF
TELEFAX
HOW ABOUT THIS? "WANTED ALIVE. THIS MAN, WHO ANSWERS TO THE NAME OF 'DOC' OR 'THE DOCTOR'. A REWARD OF 250,000 MAZUMAS IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THIS MAN."
LAST SEEN LIKE THIS...
F213
770616
OR DISGUISED LIKE THIS...
PRETTY GOOD, HUH? THERE'S A NAME AND ADDRESS, TOO. SOME OUTFIT ON VENUS.
A QUARTER OF A MILLION? JUST FOR INFORMATION? I SMELL SOMETHING BIG HERE, RECORDER.
IF I HAD A NOSE, IT WOULD BE TWITCHING.

SO THE WHIFFERDILL TOOK OFF ONCE AGAIN... HEADING DOWNTOWN. DOWN TO THE BRIGHTEST, BRASSIEST STRIP IN THE WHOLE GALAXY...


AND THERE IT HAUNTED THE MORE EXPENSIVE BARS, DISGUISED AS A BARFLY... WAITING FOR THE WHISPER... WAITING FOR THE WORD.
BBBZZZZZZZZZZZZ

AFTER FOUR NIGHTS OF BAR-CRAWLING, THE WHIFFERDILL STRUCK LUCKY.
VIOLA! BINGO! IT'S THE MAN HIMSELF!
PINK ELEPHANT GIN

NOW, IF I JUST PARK MYSELF ON THE RIM OF HIS GLASS I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. I MIGHT EVEN SLIP 'IM A MICKEY BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OUT.
WHAT IS THIS STUFF HE'S DRINKING ANYWAY? MMMM... CHOCOLATE SODA...

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, SIR...
WHAT..?
?
FWAT

I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER DRINK, SIR. THERE SEEMS TO BE A FOREIGN BODY IN THIS ONE...
OH, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER...

I WAS JUST LEAVING.

HELP! GASP...GLUB... HALP!

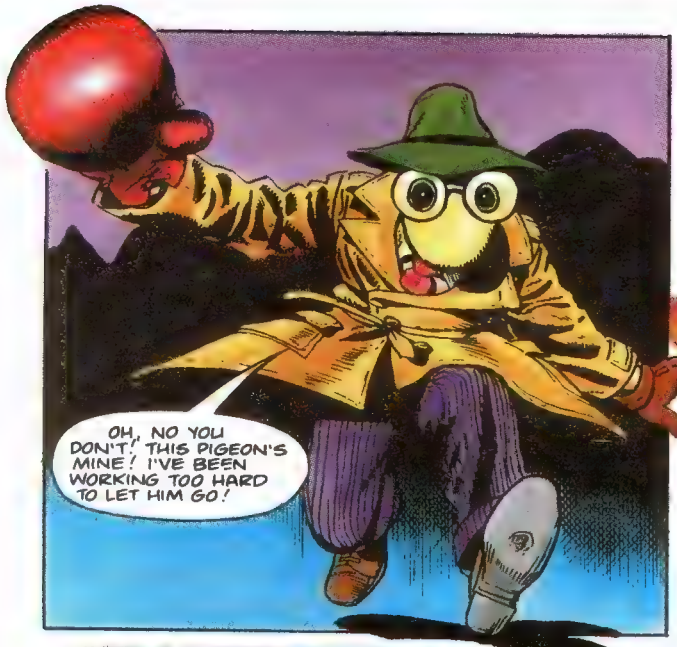
JUST BEFORE IT HIT THE SINK, THE WHIFFERDILL MANAGED A QUICK CHANGE...

THEN NARROWLY AVOIDED A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH THE SEWER MAINS BY A FURTHER LIGHTNING SHIFT...
HEY...I'M GETTING GOOD. I'M GETTING FAST.... I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED.

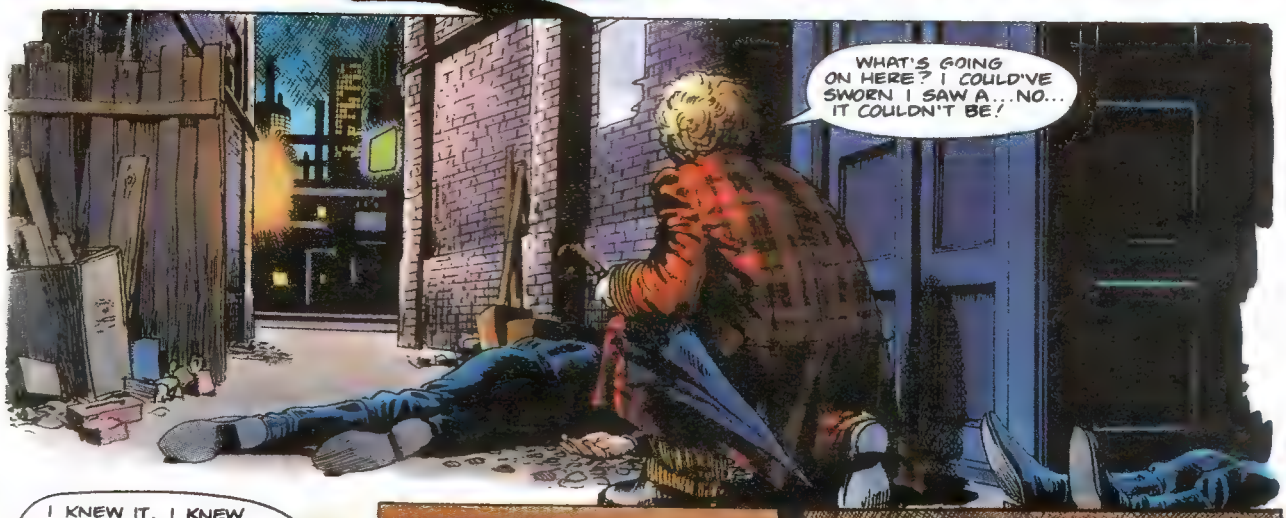
HUP! WOULDYA LOOK AT... I ACTUALLY MADE IT OUT HERE BEFORE HE DID.
THEY SAY IT'S QUICKER BY DRAIN..
UHH... SIR...WAIT UP. JUST A DOGGONE MINUTE THERE...

WELL, THE INFORMATION IS PILING UP. I CAN'T SEE ANY REASON FOR STAYING HERE MUCH LONGER...
I KNOW WHO THE MODERATOR WAS...AND WHO HE WORKED FOR

NEXT PORT OF CALL: VENUS.
TWO SHADOWS DETACHED THEMSELVES FROM THE DARKNESS... LAUNCHED THEMSELVES AT THE DOCTOR, VIBRO-KNIVES HUMMING...
ZZIIIIIITT
CRAK!
FREEZE, CREEP! DON'T MOVE... DON'T EVEN BREATHE!

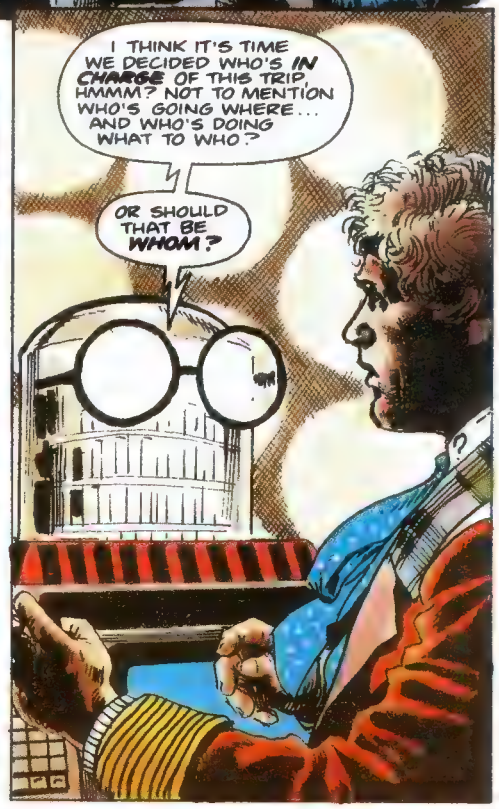

OH, NO YOU DON'T! THIS PIGEON'S MINE! I'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD TO LET HIM GO!

POK
WHUMP!

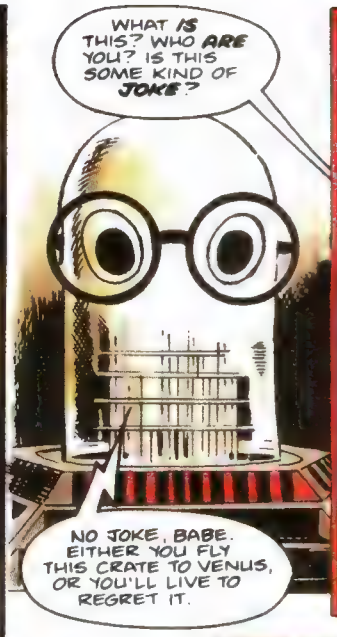

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW A...NO... IT COULDN'T BE!

I KNEW IT. I KNEW I'D GO CRAZY IF I STAYED LONG ENOUGH IN THIS GODFORSAKEN SPOT.
IT'S TIME TO GET UP AND GO...

NEW CO-ORDINATES, DESTINATION GREENBACK BAY...VENUS!
AHHH...JUST A MINUTE THERE, SPORT.


I THINK IT'S TIME WE DECIDED WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS TRIP, HMMM? NOT TO MENTION WHO'S GOING WHERE... AND WHO'S DOING WHAT TO WHO?
OR SHOULD THAT BE WHOM?

THE TARDIS HAS BEEN INFILTRATED!
THIS IS A HI-JACK! YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE WITHOUT MY SAY SO...
FACE IT, ACE...I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU!

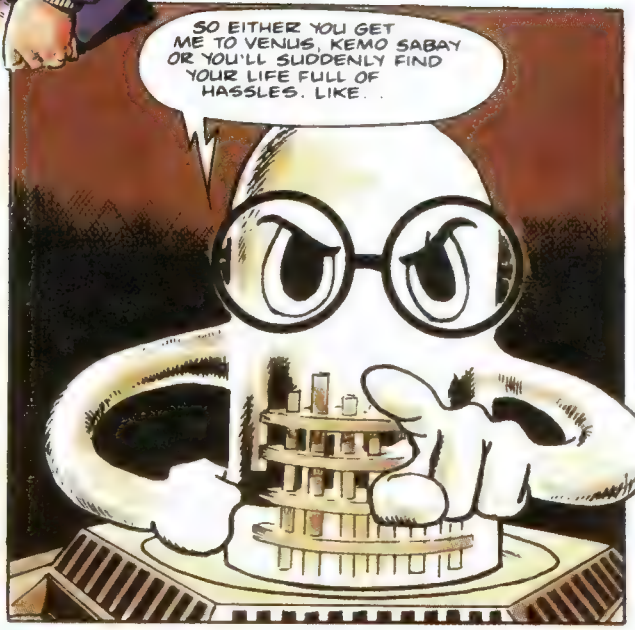

WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
NO JOKE, BABE. EITHER YOU FLY THIS CRATE TO VENUS, OR YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET IT.

ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
LISTEN, I'VE BEEN THREATENED BY EXPERTS, YOU KNOW. CYBERMEN, ICE WARRIORS, DALEKS... BBC PRODUCERS

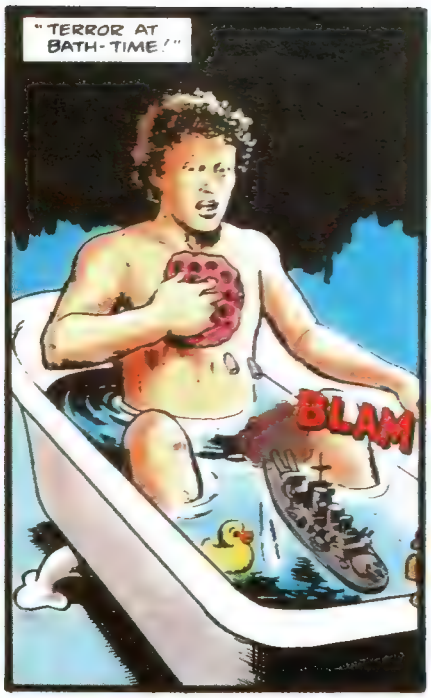
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE ME?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT HERE? DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH?

I'M A WHIFFERDILL, ACE
IS THAT COMIN' THROUGH CLEAR ENOUGH?

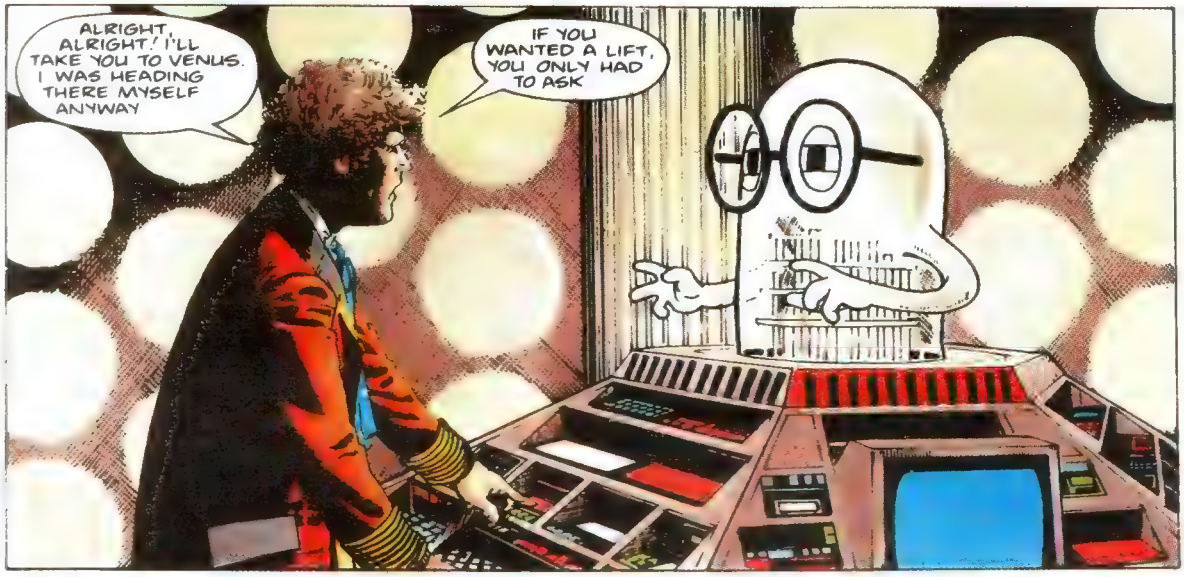
OH, NO!
'FRAID SO, MI AMIGO. YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE SCOURGE OF THE GALAXY, SENOR I'M PUBLIC PARASITE NUMBER ONE. NUMERO UNO, C'EST MOI!


SO EITHER YOU GET ME TO VENUS, KEMO SABAY OR YOU'LL SUDDENLY FIND YOUR LIFE FULL OF HASSLES. LIKE...

"SANDWICHES THAT BITE BACK!"
YEOOW!
JAM


"TERROR AT BATH-TIME!"
BLAM

"SHOES THAT FLY AWAY WITH YOU!"


ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU TO VENUS. I WAS HEADING THERE MYSELF ANYWAY
IF YOU WANTED A LIFT, YOU ONLY HAD TO ASK

A LIFT? YOU POPPED YOUR CORK, MAHAVIRA? I'M TURNING YOU IN!
TURNING ME IN? TURNING ME IN FOR WHAT?

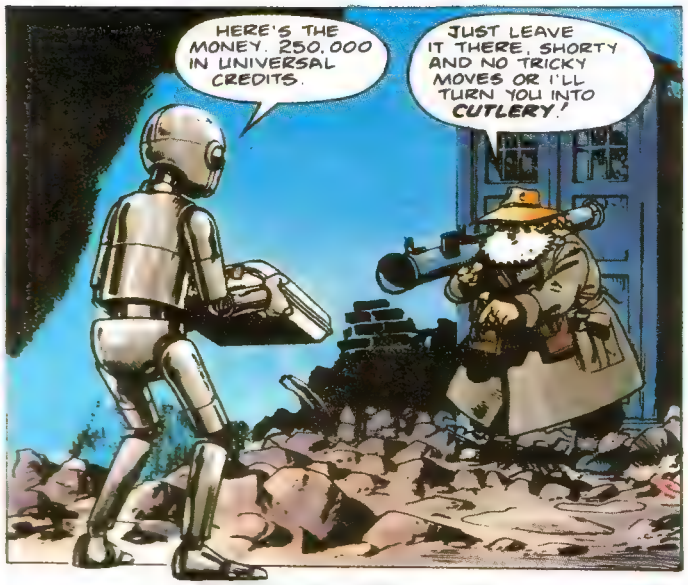
FOR EXACTLY 250,000 MAZUMAS, OUR KID ONE QUARTER MILLION PRECISELY

NOT FAR AWAY AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...
INC
INTRAVENUS INC
VWORP! VWORP!
THE DOCTOR'S ARRIVAL DID NOT GO UNNOTICED...
KLAXONS BLARED, ALARMS RANG, SECURITY GUARDS RUSHED HITHER AND YON ...ALL ANNOUNCING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT THEY PROTECTED...
NOTIFY MISTER DOGBOLTER!
MR. DOGBOLTER WAS NOTIFIED...
IT'S A TRAP. IT'S A SCAM. I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR IT.
BUT THE THING'S ON THE ROOF, MISTER DOGBOLTER.
THEN KNOCK IT OFF!
BUT EVACUATE THE BUILDING FIRST

THIS IS... AH... OUTRIDER ONE ZERO ONE TO IV. CONTROL.. HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH TARGET.
GOING IN FOR DOUBLE STRIKE... ONE MEGATON... REPEAT... ONE MEGATON.
FWAAAAAM!
BAKOOOOM!
NOW?
NOW.

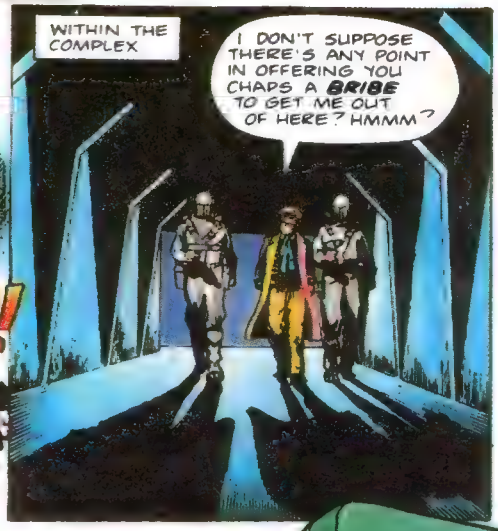
IT'S SOME KIND OF DEAL. THERE'S A BOUNTY HUNTER SAYS HE'S CAPTURED THE TIME-CRAFT AND ITS OPERATOR
HE'S CLAIMING THE REWARD
HE'S PREPARED TO EXCHANGE THE OPERATOR FIRST FOR 250,000 MAZUMAS.
THEN THE TIME-CRAFT ITSELF FOR A FURTHER 500,000 MAZUMAS.
AGREE TO THE FIRST PART I WANT THAT TIME-LORD
ARRANGE A STRAIGHT TRADE, NO TRICKS GET THE TIME-LORD UNDER GUARD AND INTO THE INNER COMPLEX.
AND SO
C'MON... MOVE IT, YA TWO-TIMIN' DROTCHNIK. COME AND GET HIM, BILGE-RATS... HE'S ALL YOURS AND WELCOME..

THROW THE SCUTBAG INTO THE DEEPEST DUNGEON YOU C'N FIND AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!

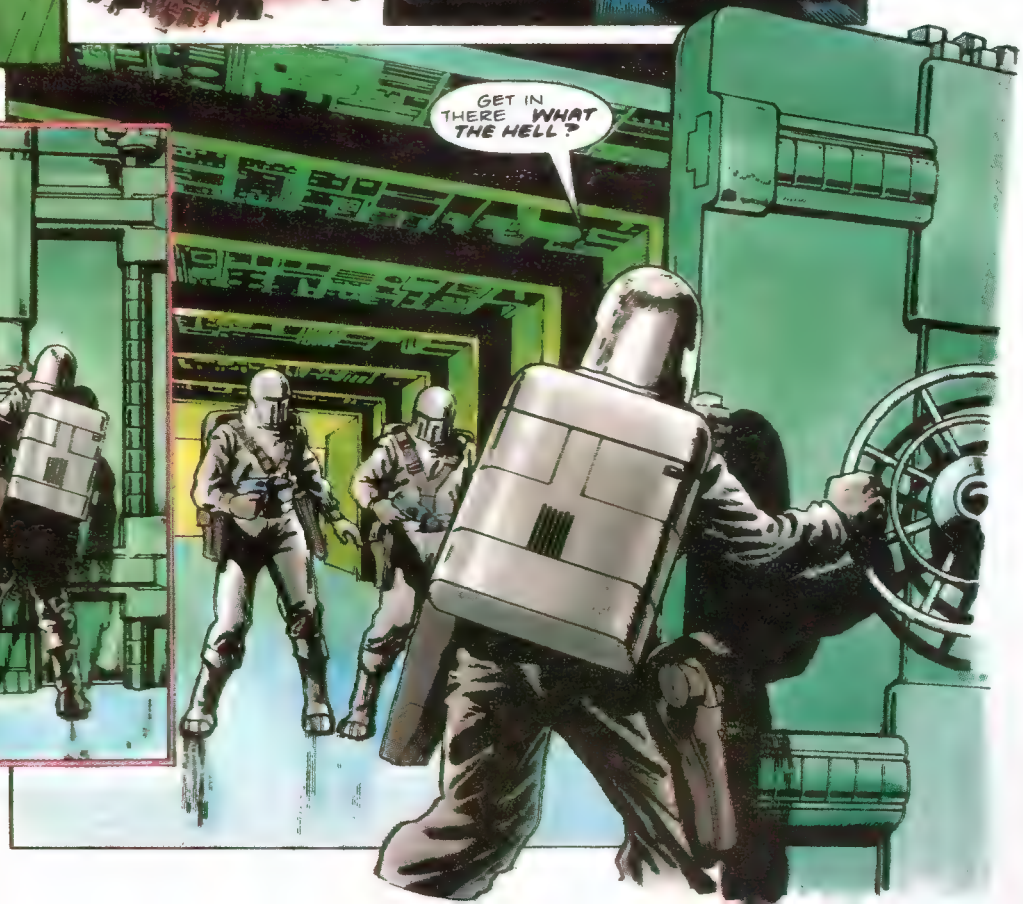

HERE'S THE MONEY. 250,000 IN UNIVERSAL CREDITS.
JUST LEAVE IT THERE, SHORTY AND NO TRICKY MOVES OR I'LL TURN YOU INTO CUTLERY!

NOW TELL YOUR MEN TO BACK OFF UNTIL I'M WELL CLEAR.

VWORP!
VWORP!


WITHIN THE COMPLEX
I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY POINT IN OFFERING YOU CHAPS A BRIBE TO GET ME OUT OF HERE? HMMM?

NO I THOUGHT NOT


GET IN THERE WHAT THE HELL?

WHERE DID HE GO?
WHO?
WHAT?
THE PRISONER! IT MUST BE ONE OF YOU!
BUT WHICH ONE?
HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S NOT YOU?
I'M TAKING NO CHANCES!
BLAM!
YOU'RE CRAZY! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
WHABB!
HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT. IT'S UP TO THE DOC NOW.
COME ON, ACE... START STRUTTIN' YOUR STUFF

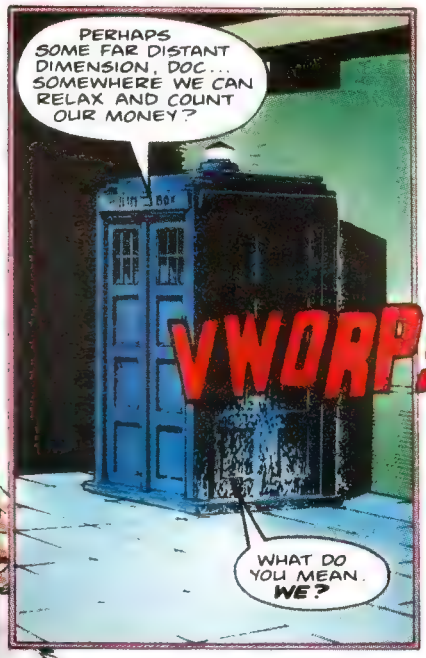
RIGHT ON CUE!
VWORP!
VWORP!

MAKE WAY, M'BOY IT'S THE STAR OF THE SHOW

I RAISE MY HAT TO YOU, SIR AND OFFER YOU THIS LITTLE SNIPPET OF ADVICE
ANYTHING WORTH HAVING IS WORTH CHEATING FOR.

AND 250,000 MAZUMAS IS WORTH HAVING
125,000 IS FOR ME. THE DEAL WAS FIFTY-FIFTY REMEMBER?

NOW WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. DOGBOLTER WILL THROW EVERYTHING HE'S GOT AT US... AND I'D LIKE TO BE LONG GONE


PERHAPS SOME FAR DISTANT DIMENSION, DOC... SOMEWHERE WE CAN RELAX AND COUNT OUR MONEY?
VWORP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN. WE?

I'VE DECIDED TO STICK AROUND, DOC WITH MY BRAINS AND YOUR BEAUTY WE COULD DO GREAT THINGS. WHADDYA SAY?
DO I HAVE ANY CHOICE?
NOPE
VWORP!
FUNNY I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT..

THE GREAT SHIP PLOUGHED THE SEAS, SHEETS CREAKING... THOUGH NOT A BREATH OF AIR MOVED AT OUR BACKS. WIND-WRAITHS SHRIEKED IN THE RIGGING AND ALL THE YARDS WERE AGLOW...
VOYAGER
IT WAS A DEVIL-SHIP
IN THE OCEAN, CREATURES STIRRED AND FOLLOWED... RUNNING ALONGSIDE US LIKE DOLPHINS...
LEVIATHANS THERE WERE... MONSTERS FROM THE DEEP WITH DINNER PLATE EYES...
CREATURES ONLY IMAGINED CHURNED IN OUR WHITE WAKE. THE KRAKEN HIMSELF SALUTED OUR PASSAGE...THOUGH NONE BUT ME STOOD ON DECK TO SEE HIM...
IT WAS A DEATH-SHIP

AND THEN I SENSED HIS PRESENCE
HE HAD COME UP FROM BELOW TO TASTE THIS TIMELESS OCEAN...
HE WAS NOT LIKE OTHER MEN.

HE SPOKE NOT AT TIMES HE APPEARED NOT TO MOVE, NOR EVEN TO TAKE BREATH

AND YET I COULD SENSE HIS UNTRAMMELLED THOUGHTS, AS DISTANT AS THE SOUTHERN CROSS...
AS DARK AS UNLIMNED NIGHT...

AS DEEP AS THE UNCHARTED SEAS...

AND I WAS HIS PRISONER.

HE HAD LASHED ME TO THE WHEEL, LEST IN STORM-HAUNTED WATERS I SHOULD DISAPPEAR FOREVER...
JUST VOYAGER AND ME.

JUST HIM AND ME AND THE ENDLESS OCEANS...AND THE ROCKS AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD WHERE THE WATERS THUNDERED INTO THE GREAT ABYSS WITH THE ROAR OF HELL.

TO THE VERY EDGE WE WENT. I SCREAMED FOR RELEASE BUT HE JUST MOTIONED FOR SILENCE WITH A FINGER TO HIS LIPS
AS IF ADDRESSING A WAYWARD CHILD!
"I AM A LORD OF TIME!" I SCREAMED.
"AND I AM A LORD OF LIFE!" HE THUNDERED IN REPLY. AND HIS WORDS SOARED ALOFT AND WERE ONE WITH THE WIND
THEN THERE WAS ONLY THE VOID... AND THE WIND-WRAITHS HOWLING LIKE A THOUSAND LOST SOULS
THEIR SCREAMS MINGLED WITH MINE, FILLING MY EARS, BLOTTING OUT THE WORLD AND ITS HORRORS... DROWNING EVEN THE CATARACT ITSELF... HOWLING..
HOWLING

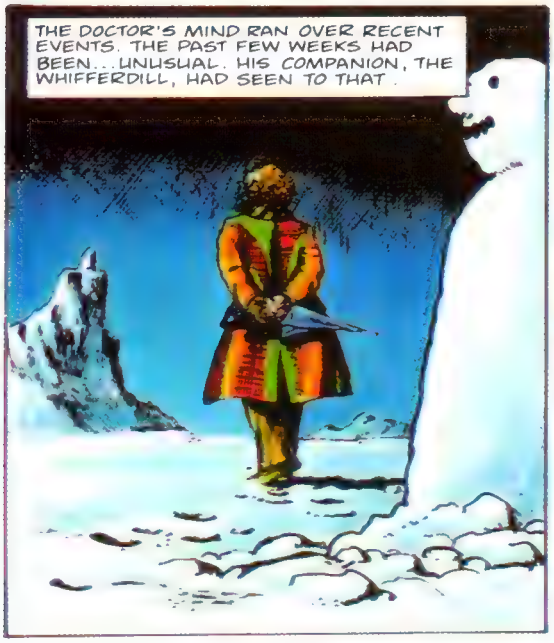
MERCY! WHAT A WIND! SOMEBODY'S LEFT THE TARDIS DOORS OPEN!

I'LL BET IT'S THAT BLASTED WHIFFERDILL. HE WAS BORN IN A FIELD.

WHERE ON EARTH..? NOT THE NORTH POLE AGAIN, SURELY.

DO THEY HAVE SNOWMEN AT THE NORTH POLE? SNOWMEN DRESSED AS TIME-LORDS?
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON HERE...

AND THAT DREAM! IT SEEMED SO REAL...SO...SO FAMILIAR


THE DOCTOR'S MIND RAN OVER RECENT EVENTS. THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAD BEEN...UNUSUAL. HIS COMPANION, THE WHIFFERDILL, HAD SEEN TO THAT.

HE HAD FORMED A FIRM FRIENDSHIP WITH THE LITTLE SHAPE-SHIFTER, HE ADMIRED HIS MANY TALENTS, HIS KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENT WORLDS
THE WHIFFERDILL, IN SPITE OF NUMEROUS ALIASES, HAD FINALLY ADOPTED THE NAME "FROBISHER", IN DEFERENCE TO THE DOCTOR'S LOVE OF ALL THINGS ENGLISH...

'MORNING, DOC
'MORNING, FROBISHER. YOU'RE UP BRIGHT AND EARLY.
YES. I DECIDED TO GO NATIVE TODAY. I'VE ALWAYS LIKED BLACK AND WHITE. I THINK IT RATHER SUITS ME, DON'T YOU?
AHA. I DEDUCE THAT WE'RE AT THE SOUTH POLE, THEN. A FASCINATING CONTINENT, ANTARCTICA...
THE TARDIS SEEMS TO THINK SO, TOO. WE LANDED AUTOMATICALLY.
REALLY? THE SCANNERS MUST HAVE PICKED UP SOMETHING INTERESTING.
I'D BETTER GO BACK AND CHECK IT OUT
DON'T BOTHER, DOC...
I THINK WE'VE ALREADY FOUND IT.

THE DREAM IT'S THE SHIP FROM THE DREAM, IT MUST BE.
BUT HOW? WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY HAS THE TARDIS BROUGHT ME HERE?
HEY, DOC! I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME UP HERE...
WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND? TREASURE? PIECES OF EIGHT? NO, IT'S THE WRONG PART OF THE WORLD, ISN'T IT?
THE BARBARY COAST IS WHERE THE GOLD COMES FROM. THE WEST INDIES... OLD JAMAICA... YO HO HO AND A BOTTLE OF...
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT, DOC...
NOTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL.
OH...
FROZEN SOLID... AS HARD AND COLD AS METAL. THE POOR DEVIL...
THE POOR, POOR DEVIL...
BANG!

IT'S AN OPEN DOOR... BANGING IN THE WIND!
BANG!

AND THIS MUST BE THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN

THIS IS FASCINATING. I FEEL AS IF I'M STANDING IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF AN ANCIENT COUNTERPART
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND THE SHIP'S LOG. AND FIND OUT HOW THEY GOT HERE

THESE MUST BE NAVIGATION CHARTS...

NO...THIS ONE IS A STAR CHART! AN ASTRONOMICAL MAP OF CONSTELLATIONS ...BUT NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!
LEMME SEE. MAYBE I CAN RECOGNISE IT...

YOU CAN JUST HAND THOSE CHARTS OVER TO ME, M'BOY...

AND TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW... OR I'LL SCATTER YOUR GIZZARDS ALL OVER THIS GOOFORSAKEN SHIP!

FOR A TIME-LORD, THERE CAN BE NO HARD-EDGED REALITIES. WHEN THE INFINITE BECOMES YOUR OWN BACKYARD, WHAT ELSE IS LEFT BUT TO FEEL YOUR WAY?
EVERY SO OFTEN...LIKE NOW... FACT, FANTASY AND ILLUSION TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN...
DON'T JUST STAND THERE GAWPIN' LIKE A GREAT JESSIE!
HAND OVER THEM CHARTS!
RIGHT...NOW SIT YE DOWN THERE IN THE CAP'N'S CHAIR..
AND REMEMBER, LAD.. THIS IS NOTHING PERSONAL. I'M JUST TAKING MY RIGHTFUL DUES, Y'UNDERSTAND.
THESE CHARTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THEY COULD EVER BE TO YOU
AND IF YOU TRY AN' FOLLER ME I'LL BLOW YE TO KINGDOM COME!
HEH, HEH!
FROBISHER! GET UP ON DECK! FIND OUT WHICH DIRECTION HE'S GOING!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THOSE ROPES...
JUST GET UP ON DECK! I'LL HANDLE THESE!

A LITTLE TECHNIQUE I LEARNED...

...FROM HARRY HOUDINI... IN EXCHANGE FOR A TRICK OR TWO OF MY OWN OF COURSE!

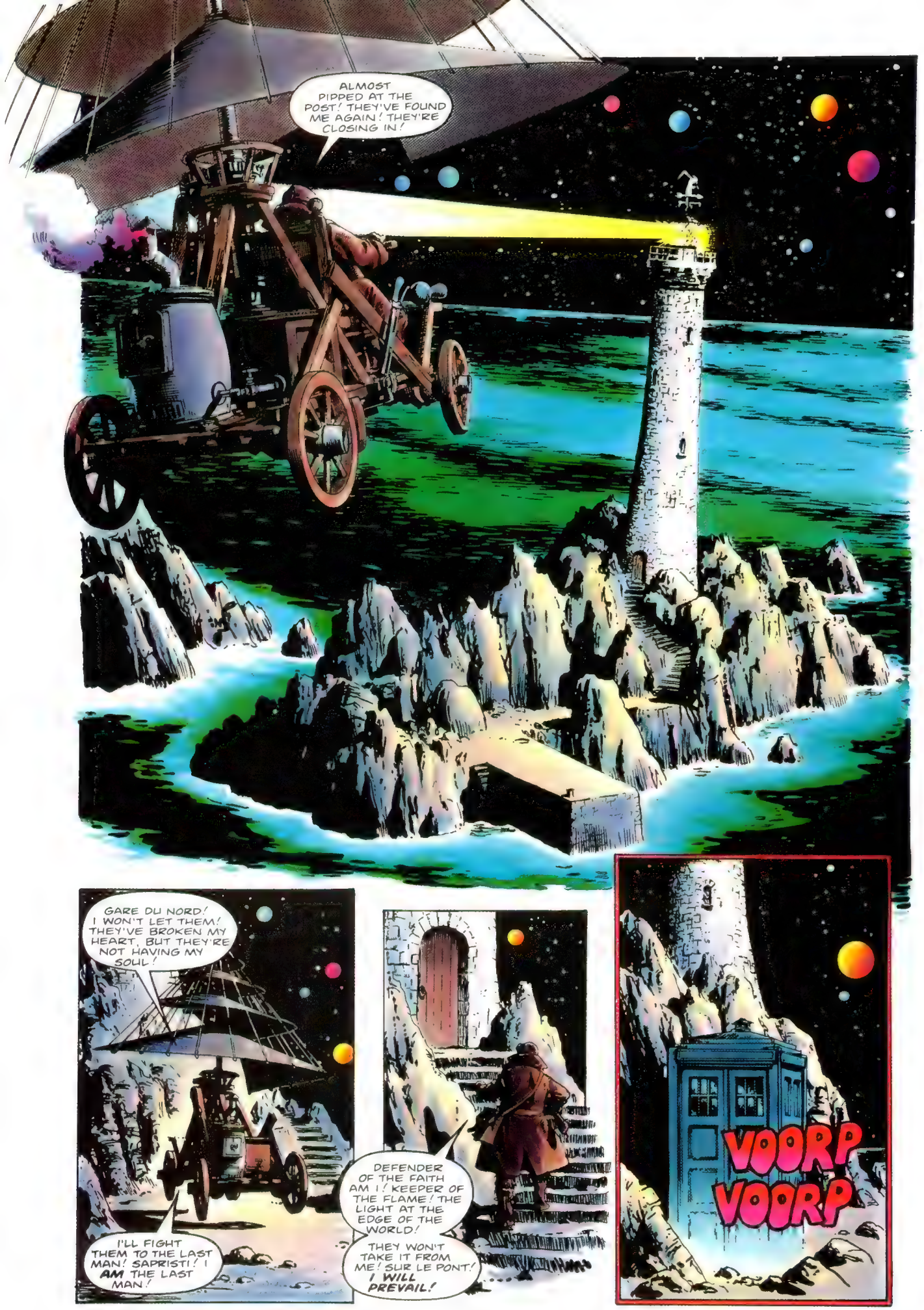
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
YEP! HE'S MAKING FOR SOME KIND OF CONTRAPTION!

GOOD HEAVENS...

IT'S A DA VINCI ORIGINAL!

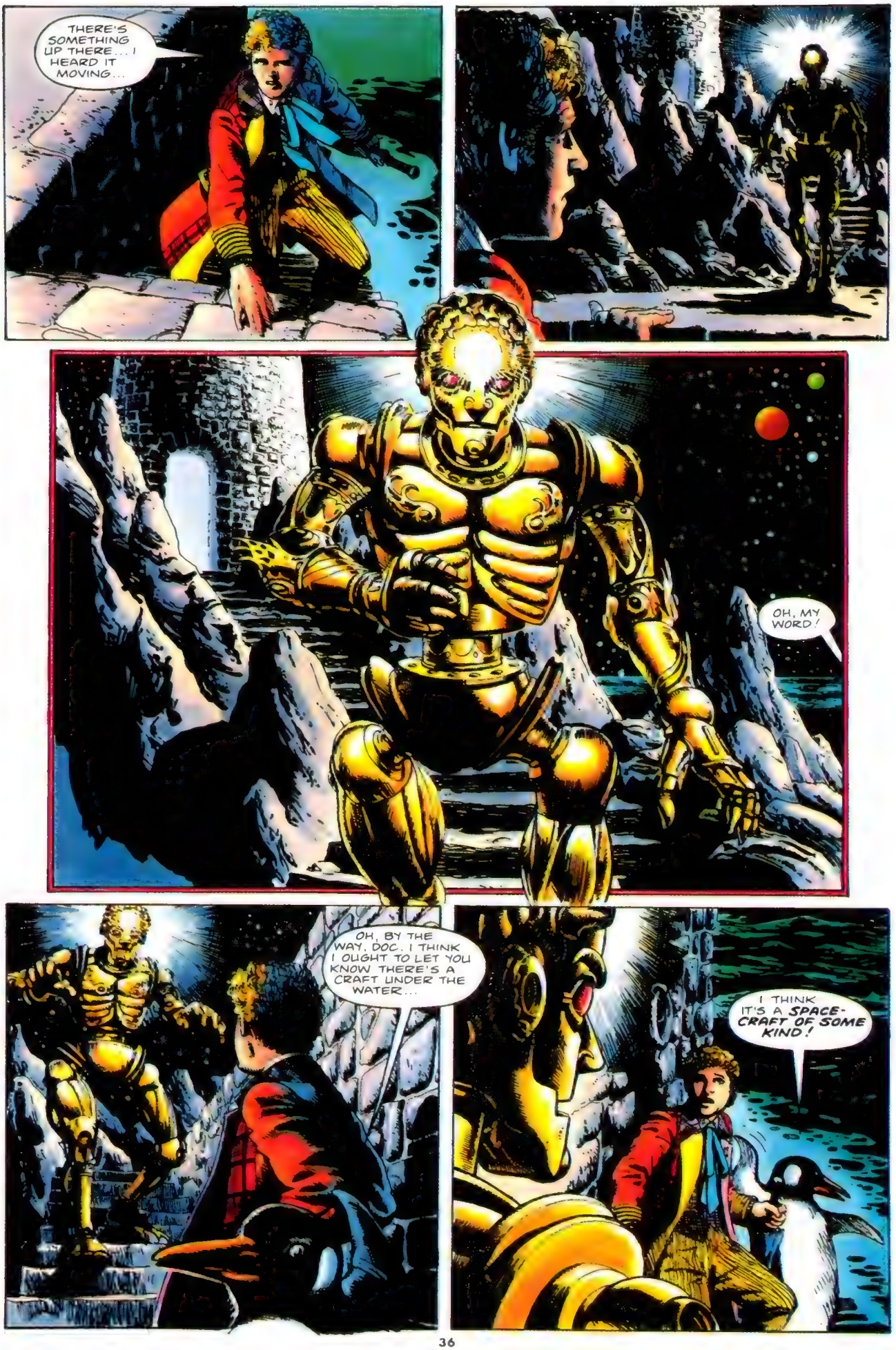
COME ON BACK TO THE TARDIS!
WAIT FOR ME, DOC!
THERE'S NO TIME! HURRY YOURSELF!
WHOOAA!
WATCH OUT, DOC! GANGWAY!
HEY!
FROBISHER!
WELL...YOU DID ASK TO GO FASTER!
OH, NO!
LOOK OUT!

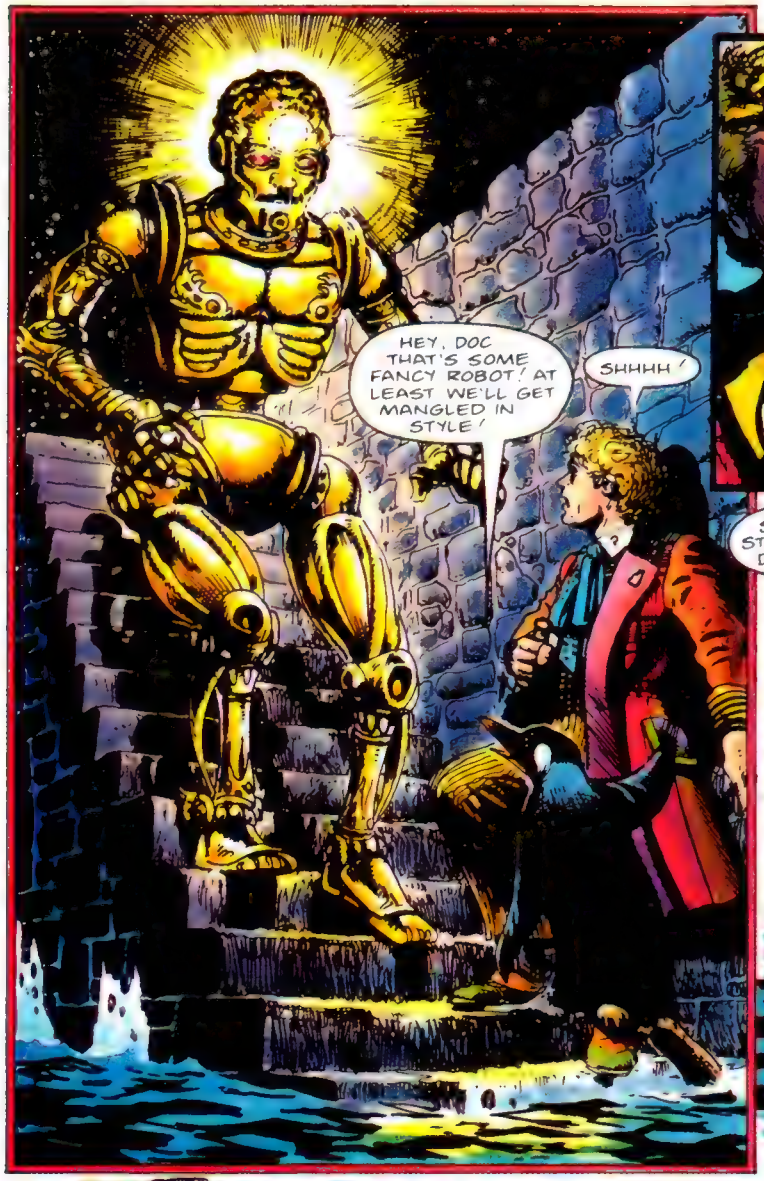
HONESTLY, DOC... THIS IS NO TIME TO BE PLAYING SNOWBALLS, WE'VE GOT IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!
MMMFFFF... GGGGHHH... GGUURRGGHH...
WELL, THANKS TO YOU I'VE GOT SNOW IN MY EARS AND DOWN MY NECK... AND WE'VE PROBABLY LOST TRACK OF OUR INTREPID BIRDMAN...
I'LL PUT OUT A LONG-RANGE SCAN... YOU DO SOMETHING USEFUL.
LIKE WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW... TURN INTO A CUP OF HOT COCOA OR SOMETHING... I'M FREEZING.
ANYHOW, I'M STAYING A PENGUIN FOR A WHILE. FOR... WELL, PERSONAL REASONS...
D'YOU KNOW, I ONCE SPENT FOURTEEN YEARS AS A TILL ON A CHECKOUT COUNTER IN A SUPERMARKET IN WALTHAMSTOW?
AW, DOC... YOU'LL HURT MY FEELINGS.
I DID IT FOR LOVE...
BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS ONLY IN IT FOR THE MONEY...
SHUT UP! WE'RE ONTO HIM!
LET'S GO!
VOORP! VOORP!
SACRE BLEU! WOE AND THRICE WOE! WOULD YOU ADAM AND EVE IT?


ALMOST PIPPED AT THE POST! THEY'VE FOUND ME AGAIN! THEY'RE CLOSING IN!
GARE DU NORD! I WON'T LET THEM! THEY'VE BROKEN MY HEART, BUT THEY'RE NOT HAVING MY SOUL!
I'LL FIGHT THEM TO THE LAST MAN! SAPRISTI! I AM THE LAST MAN!
DEFENDER OF THE FAITH AM I! KEEPER OF THE FLAME! THE LIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD!
THEY WON'T TAKE IT FROM ME! SUR LE PONT! I WILL PREVAIL!
VOORP VOORP

ARE WE GOING OUTSIDE, DOC?
NO. WAIT UP... I'VE PICKED SOMETHING UP ON THE SENSORS. SOMETHING VERY ODD.
IN FACT, THERE'S A WHOLE WEALTH OF INFORMATION COMING THROUGH. THIS LIGHT-HOUSE HAS ALL THE ENERGY OUTPUT OF A SMALL FACTORY.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING STANDING OUT...
AN IMPULSE OF SOME KIND... A SIGNAL BEING PULSED AT THE SAME RATE AS THE LIGHTHOUSE BEAM ROTATES..
BUT I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT KIND OF SIGNAL IT IS.
IT'S VERY WIDE... AND VERY POWERFUL... AND VERY REGULAR.
AND I DON'T THINK IT'S BEING DIRECTED AT SHIPS.. AT LEAST...
NOT THE KIND OF SHIPS THAT SAIL ON THE SEA...
FROBISHER?
FROBISHER! DRAT HIM!
SPECIFICALLY TOLD HIM NOT TO GO OUTSIDE!
THERE'S MORE TO THIS PLACE THAN MEETS THE EYE... BUT I SUPPOSE A PENGUIN MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY APPRECIATING THE FACT.
BOX

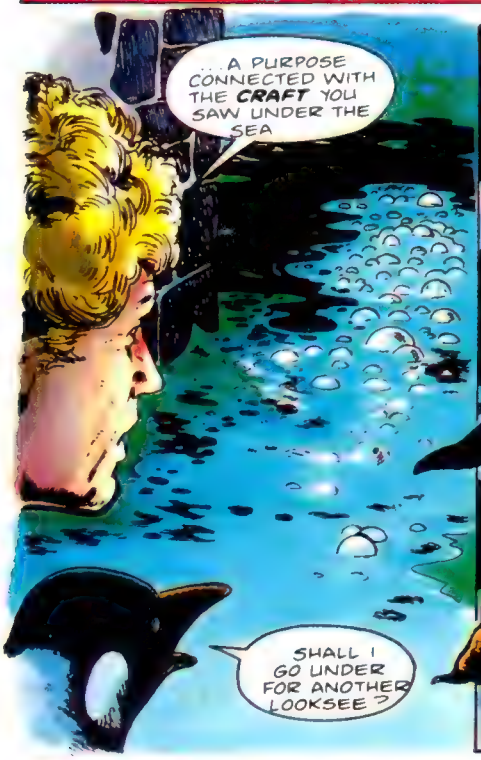
SO THAT'S IT! HE'S GONE FOR A QUICK DIP!
STRANGE. VERY STRANGE. A LIGHT IN THE WATER.
HIYA, DOC!
AAAAAAGH!
...IT'S MOVING... WHAT ON EARTH? PHOSPHORESCENCE PERHAPS? OR AN ANGLER FISH? OR A.
YOU...YOU.. HALF-WITTED, HALF-PINT TUB OF BLUBBER...WAIT 'TIL I GET MY...
NNYYEEERRR... WHAT'S UP, DOC? HA! GET IT?
SORRY I FRIGHTENED YOU, DOC. HERE... GLERB...HAVE A FISH!
WHAT WAS THAT? DID YOU HEAR THAT?


THERE'S SOMETHING UP THERE... I HEARD IT MOVING...
OH, MY WORD!
OH, BY THE WAY, DOC. I THINK I OUGHT TO LET YOU KNOW THERE'S A CRAFT UNDER THE WATER...
I THINK IT'S A SPACE-CRAFT OF SOME KIND!


HEY, DOC THAT'S SOME FANCY ROBOT! AT LEAST WE'LL GET MANGLED IN STYLE!
SHHHH!

IT'S **NOT** A ROBOT... IT'S AN **AUTOMATON**! IT'S A MECHANICAL BODY.
INHABITED BY A **LIVING SOUL!**

SPOOKY STUFF EH, DOC?
IT HAS NO INTEREST IN US. IT MUST HAVE SOME ULTERIOR PURPOSE

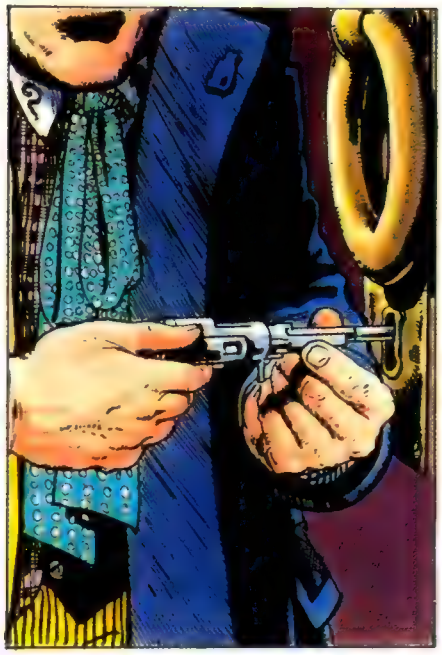

...A PURPOSE CONNECTED WITH THE **CRAFT** YOU SAW UNDER THE SEA
SHALL I GO UNDER FOR ANOTHER LOOKSEE?

DOC? SHALL I? YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME TO MAKE MYSELF **USEFUL!**

GO BACK TO THE TARDIS... AND **STAY** THERE!
AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING. NOT THE CONTROLS NOT THE FIZZY DRINKS MACHINE... AND DEFINITELY **NOT** THE FOOD DISPENSER!
BUT, DOC

THE LAST TIME I LEFT HIM ALONE HE FILLED THE ENTIRE CONTROL ROOM WITH MARS BARS!
MMM...NOW LET'S START UNRAVELLING SOME OF THIS MYSTERY

OBSTACLE NUMBER ONE. THE LOCKED DOOR.
THERE'S SOMEBODY BEHIND IT, TOO.. I CAN HEAR MUTTERING.



INTERESTING

VERY INTERESTING..

QUITE A NICE LITTLE SET-UP... A PROPER LITTLE HOME FROM HOME..
NOT PARTICULARLY ORIGINAL, BUT NICE HMMM
THAT REMINDS ME, I SHOULD'VE ASKED FROBISHER TO DO SOME TIDYING UP IN THE TARDIS
NEVER MIND... I'LL JUST ACTIVATE THE VIBRATOR PIKLOK...
hmmmmm-
CLICK!
AND BOBS YERUNCLE.
AHHH... HOW KIND. A WEAPON HAS BEEN PROVIDED
TURN AROUND WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
WHAT?

SO! YOU WIN AGAIN, PROFESSOR MORIARTY! CURSE YOU FOR THE FIEND YOU ARE!

GO ON, THEN SHOOT! SCATTER THESE OLD BONES FAR AND WIDE! PARBLEU! I'VE HAD A GOOD INNINGS. NOW DO YOUR WORST
SEND A POOR, FRAIL OLD MAN BACK TO THE PAVILION

WELL . I DIDN'T MEAN . I COULDN'T ACTUALLY
WHAT I MEANT WAS

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! YOU HAVEN'T THE GUTS TO FINISH THE JOB!
MON DIEU! THE WORLD IS FULL OF PACIFISTS THESE DAYS!

AS FOR ME. YOU MAY FIND I AM MADE OF STERNER STUFF!
NOW, JUST A MINUTE .

FFZZZZ!
BLAMM

PLOP!
SORRY I CAN'T STAY, MON VIEUX... I HAVE A PRESSING APPOINTMENT IN FAR CATHAY...
SOME CHAP CALLED MARCO POLO. . HATES TO BE KEPT WAITING!
THE OLD FRAUD'S LOCKED THE DOOR . WELL I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THE PIKLOK ROUTINE AGAIN
THIS TIME I'LL JUST BLAST THE LOCK!
OH, I SEE
BANG
THIS CALLS FOR THE PERSONAL TOUCH

HEY! IT OPENED TOO EASILY!

AAAAGH!

THE LEDGE! JUST MADE IT!

OH, MY WORD! HELP!
SOMEBODY PULL ME UP! HEEEELP!

TAKE A CARD, YOUNG MAN, ANY CARD
LOOK AT IT, REMEMBER IT AND PUT IT BACK FACE DOWN IN THE PACK. GOT THAT?

YOU'RE MAD
STARK, STARING MAD

US? MAD? WE DON'T LIKE THE TONE OF YOUR CONVERSATION, YOUNG MAN
DO WE, MR PUNCH? WE DON'T LIKE HIS TONE AT ALL
NO WE DON'T, DO WE, CHILDREN? NOT AT ALL...
SO WHILE JUDY'S GONE OUT TO FETCH THE POLICEMAN...WE'LL GIVE HIM A BASHING, WON'T WE?
OH, NO YOU WON'T
OH, YES WE WILL!
THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!
THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M A TIME LORD!!
WHACK! WHACK!
CLICK!
YOU ARE IN MORTAL PERIL, TIME LORD VOYAGER. HE HAS SEEN YOU AND HE WANTS YOUR SOUL...
YOU'VE MET HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
I S-SAW HIM IN A DREAM

A DREAM? PARBLEU, WHAT ELSE? THE FIRST SIGNS OF MADNESS, MY FRIEND

HOW DID I GET HERE? WHO ARE YOU?

CURIOSITY BROUGHT YOU HERE, MY FRIEND YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
THAT'S ILLOGICAL THE WORLD HAS NO END

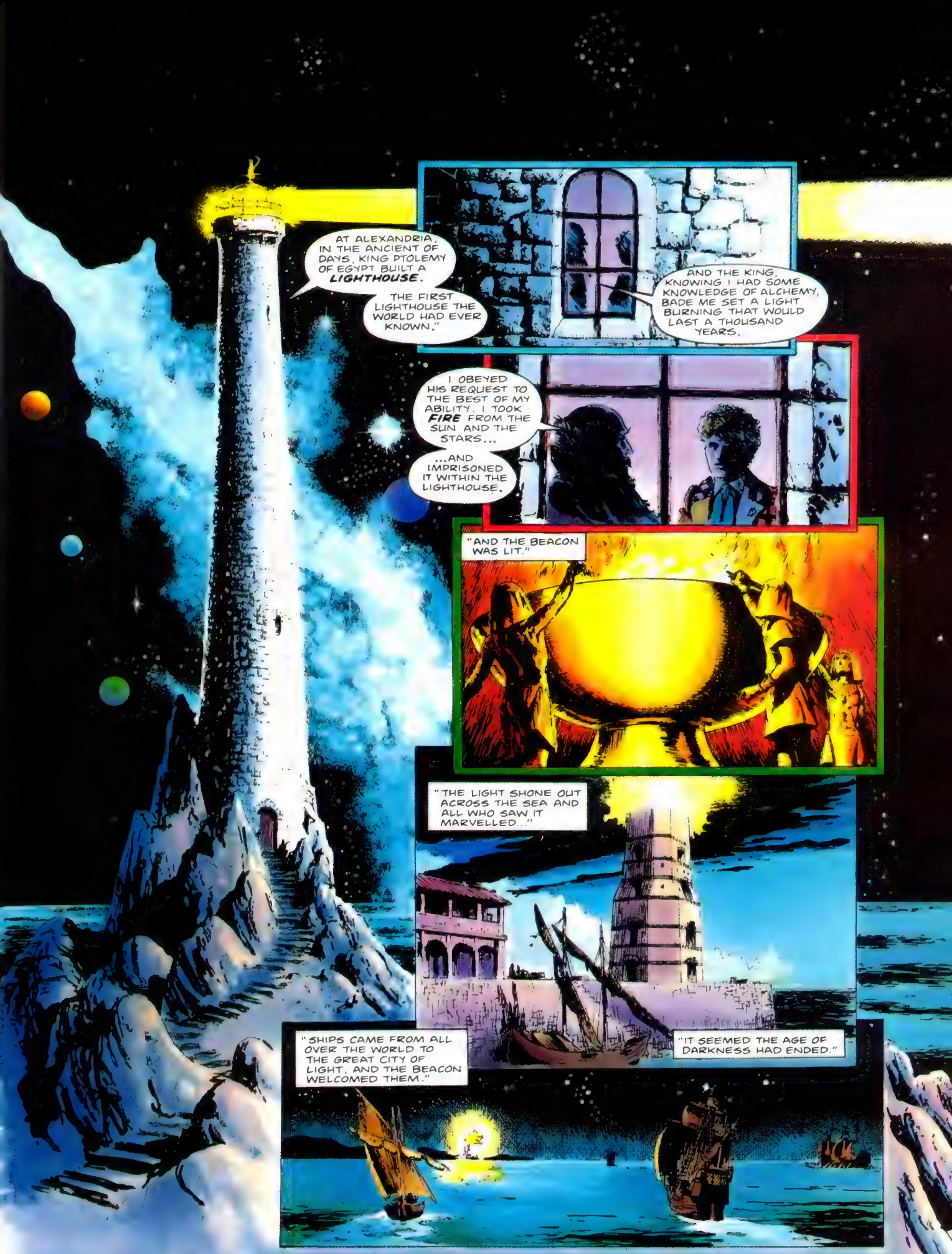
LOGIC TELLS US THE WORLD IS ROUND
BUT LOGIC IS A NEW TOY
HERE DRINK UP

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DRINK THAT? WILL I VANISH IN A PUFF OF SMOKE?
OLD MAN WHO ARE YOU?

I? I AM ASTROLABUS, THE STAR TAKER... I AM THE SANDMAN, THE JESTER, THE CONJURER AND THE CLOWN I AM THE FOOL... I AM
EL DIABLO! ZORRO! ROBIN HOOD! I AM A WILLOW WAND IN THE DIVINER'S HAND

I AM THE LAST MAN, THE FLAME-KEEPER, THE LIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD. I AM SANTA CLAUS. I HAVE CHARTED THE SECRET PLACES OF THE EARTH. I HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE STARS...
I AM THE FAIRY AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN

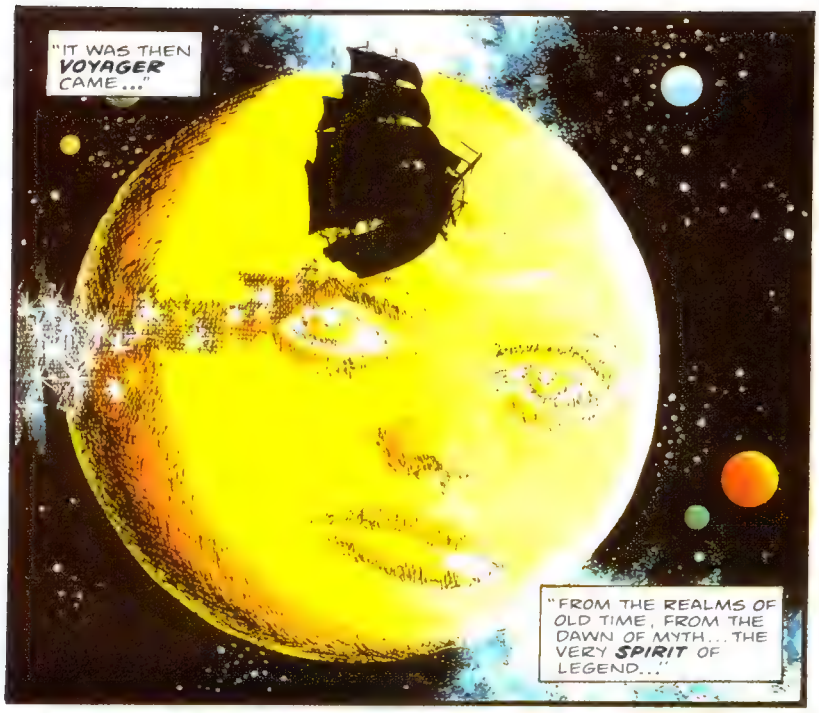
I AM THE SPRING IN THE WELL... THE STORY-TELLER, THE STAR-SPANNER I AM THE GOBLIN, THE IMP AND THE ACE OF WANDS. I AM MAGIC... I AM MYTH
I AM LEGEND...


AT ALEXANDRIA, IN THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, KING PTOLEMY OF EGYPT BUILT A LIGHTHOUSE.
THE FIRST LIGHTHOUSE THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN."
AND THE KING, KNOWING I HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF ALCHEMY, BADE ME SET A LIGHT BURNING THAT WOULD LAST A THOUSAND YEARS.
I OBEYED HIS REQUEST TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. I TOOK FIRE FROM THE SUN AND THE STARS...
...AND IMPRISONED IT WITHIN THE LIGHTHOUSE.
"AND THE BEACON WAS LIT."
"THE LIGHT SHONE OUT ACROSS THE SEA AND ALL WHO SAW IT MARVELLED..."
"SHIPS CAME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO THE GREAT CITY OF LIGHT, AND THE BEACON WELCOMED THEM."
"IT SEEMED THE AGE OF DARKNESS HAD ENDED."

"BUT THERE HAD BEEN SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS...THE ROYAL ASTROLOGER WAS SUMMONED..."
THE DARK ONE, THE KING, AND THE WARRIOR LORD WILL ALIGN THEMSELVES AGAINST US...
MY LORD, THE GREAT CONJUNCTION OF PLANETS IS MERELY A YEAR AWAY...
THOUGH I CANNOT FORETELL WHAT THIS MAY BRING, I OFFER YOU A WARNING OF DIRE PERIL.
I FEAR THIS MAY BE THE END.
"ALL THAT FOLLOWING YEAR, THE ASTROLOGER KEPT WATCH ON THE SKIES."
"THEN THE SKYSHIPS CAME, BEARING TRAVELLERS FROM BEYOND THE STARS..."
"THE CITY HAD BECOME A CROSSROADS IN TIME. PAST AND FUTURE HAD CONJOINED — SORCERY AND SCIENCE NOW WALKED HAND IN HAND."
"THE VISITORS BROUGHT NEW KNOWLEDGE OF TIME AND SPACE KNOWLEDGE UNDREAMED OF..."
"BUT THE KNOWLEDGE HAD A PRICE..."

THE VISITORS ASKED FOR THE CHARTS IN MY KEEPING...
SO THEY MIGHT TRAVERSE THE GLOBE, FIND THE SECRET PLACES OF THE EARTH AND THE POWER CONTAINED THEREIN.
"BUT THE SECRETS HAD BEEN JEALOUSLY GUARDED FOR MILLENIA BY THE FAITHFUL FEW. ADEPT IN SORCERY... WHO MOURNED THE PASSING OF THE OLD WAYS."
"SUMMONING THE CHTHONIC WINDS FROM THE DARKEST REACHES, THEY TOOK THE CHARTS AND MADE THEIR ESCAPE..."
"INTO THE UNCHARTED SEAS... INTO THE ABYSS OF TIME AND TIDE..."
"INTO THE FROZEN MAW OF HELL!"
AS FOR ME... I REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THE END, TRUE TO MY KING AND HIS DREAMS OF ETERNITY.

"WITH THE GREAT CONJUNCTION OF PLANETS, MARS, JUPITER AND SATURN, THE CITY FELL... THE EARTH HEAVED AND THE SEAS BOILED..."
"THE DWELLERS IN THE DEPTHS ROSE, SILENT WITNESSES TO THE DYING OF THE LIGHT..."


"IT WAS THEN VOYAGER CAME..."
"FROM THE REALMS OF OLD TIME, FROM THE DAWN OF MYTH... THE VERY SPIRIT OF LEGEND..."

"...AND HIS NAME WAS DEATH."

OLD TIME. OLD TIME? ASTROLABUS?
WHY DOES YOUR NAME SUDDENLY HAVE A FAMILIAR RING?

MY NAME IS LEGEND ON A DOZEN WORLDS. DO YOU STILL NOT KNOW ME, TIME-LORD?

IT'LL COME BACK TO ME, GIVEN TIME WHERE WERE WE?
ALEXANDRIA HAD FALLEN... WHAT BECAME OF YOU THEN?

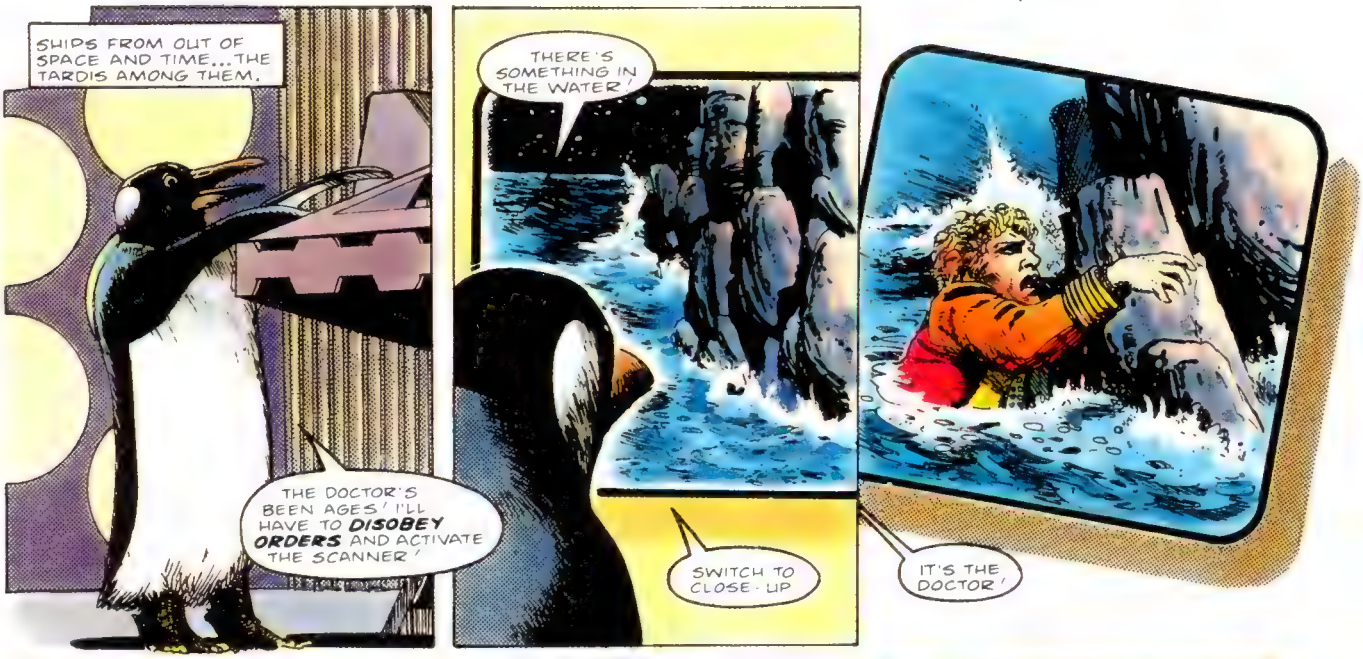
THE CITY FELL... TORN APART BY SEISMIC UPHEAVALS AS THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD BUCKLED AND WARPED...
"BY THAT TIME I HAD FLED... I WAS TAKEN ABOARD THE VISITORS' SKYSHIP..."
THE MERIDIANS OF TIME COLLAPSED INTO CHAOS. THE CITY AND ITS LIGHT FELL FROM REALITY INTO LEGEND... ONLY DIMLY REMEMBERED BY GENERATIONS TO COME.
"WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE STARS WE TRIED TO FOLLOW THE PATHS OF TIME THAT HAD OPENED IN THE VOYAGER'S WAKE..."

"BUT THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC STORMS WERE TOO STRONG..."
"THE SKYSHIP CAME TO GRIEF... PLUNGED INTO THE SEA IN THIS BARREN REALM... AND ONLY THIS DESERTED BEACON TO BEAR WITNESS..."
AND I KEPT MY PROMISE! I REKINDLED THE FLAME AS THE CENTURIES PASSED... I HAD BECOME THE FLAME, DON'T YOU SEE?
IT IS MY SOUL THAT BURNS IN THE GALLERY ABOVE!
MAD.
YOU'RE QUITE, QUITE MAD.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU FRAUD! YOU'RE ASTROLABUS... THE THIEF OF TIME!
YOU STOLE THE BOOK OF OLD TIME FROM GALLIFREY BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN!
YOUR NAME IS LEGEND, ASTROLABUS THE STAR-TAKER... YOU'RE A PLUNDERER, A PIRATE, AND A THIEF!
NO!!
I'M A REAL TIME-LORD! A PIONEER! IT WAS I WHO CHARTED THE FIRST MERIDIANS OF TIME.
IT WAS I WHO RELEASED GALLIFREY FROM THE CHAINS OF THE PRESENT!
YOU PLUNDERED THE PAST OF ITS GREAT TREASURES! AND YOU'RE DOING IT STILL!
YOU STOLE THE BOOK OF OLD TIME... RASSILON'S SACRED WORK... AND YOU ABUSED YOUR POWER!

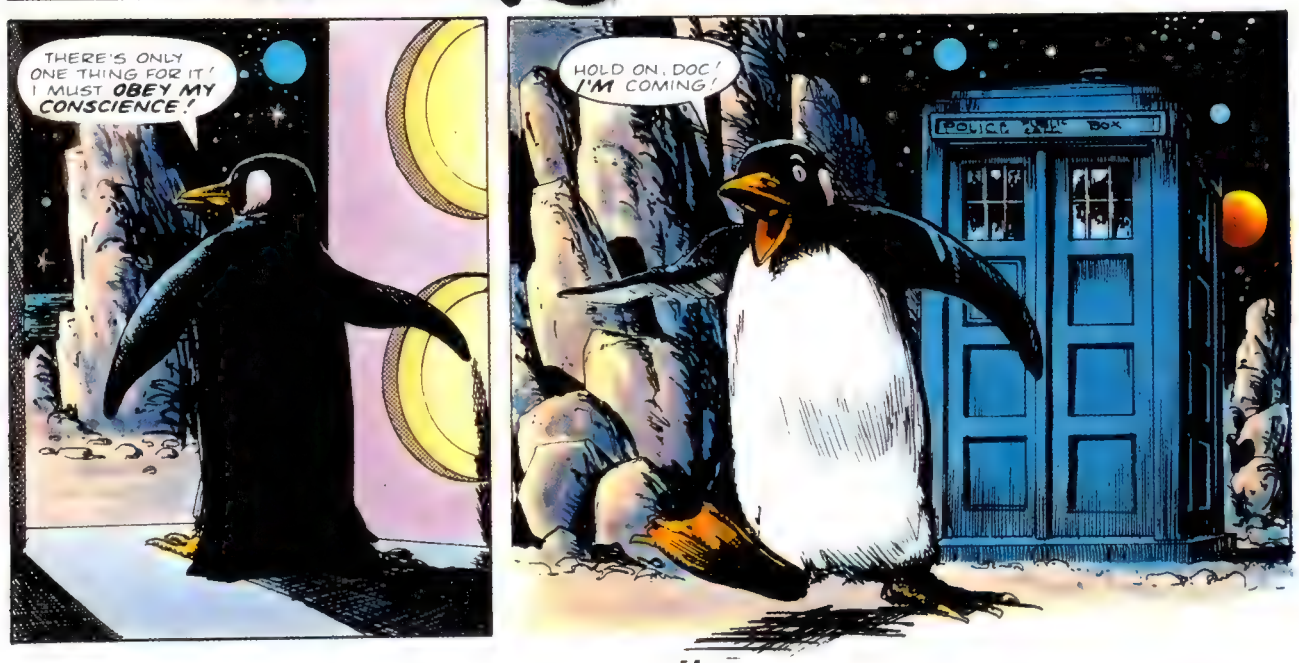
YOUR POWER... THAT'S ALL YOU CARED ABOUT.
IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW... YOU ARE A TIME-LORD, AND THIS... THIS DESERTED BEACON IS YOUR TARDIS!
AND I'LL BET IT'S STUFFED TO THE GUNNELS WITH THINGS YOU'VE PILLAGED FROM EVERY PAST AGE ON A DOZEN PLANETS!
YOU'RE WRONG! I MERELY CLAIM MY JUST REWARD!
THEY WERE THINGS I DESERVED! PAYMENT FOR MY GENIUS!

NOTHING ELSE EXISTS EXCEPT THE UNKNOWN... THE EDGE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE. NOTHING ELSE EXISTS EXCEPT A DOOR ..
A DOOR INTO THE DARK.
I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH... I'VE GOT TO GET OUT! THERE'S ONLY MADNESS HERE! IT'S ONE BIG TRAP... I'VE GOT TO...
...GET FREE!
FOR A TIME-LORD, THERE CAN BE NO HARD-EDGED REALITIES. WHEN THE INFINITE BECOMES YOUR OWN BACKYARD, WHAT ELSE IS LEFT BUT TO FEEL YOUR WAY?
GET FREEEE!..
WHEN LOGIC AND REALITY PROVE TO BE MERELY LOCALISED AFFAIRS, WHAT BETTER WAY TO FIND YOUR FEET, THAN TO FALL?

THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE... CLINGING, CLOYING, TERRIFYING...PRESSING IN ON THE DOCTOR'S EYES, EARS...AND BRAIN...
AND HE, FALLING INTO AN UNFATHOMABLE BLACKNESS...A DESCENT INTO THE DARK.
THEN FLYING. FEAR TURNING TO JOY AT THE STARS THAT GLITTER IN HIS WAKE...
HE BROKE SURFACE IN A SEA UNBOUNDED BY LAND, OPEN ONLY TO ETERNAL NIGHT...
A SEA OF MONSTERS...
AND OF JAGGED ROCKS, THAT COULD TEAR THE HEART FROM ANY SHIP.
ANY SHIP THAT WAS PULLED OUT OF SPACE AND TIME BY A FIENDISH DEVICE DISGUISED AS A LIGHTHOUSE AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD!


SHIPS FROM OUT OF SPACE AND TIME... THE TARDIS AMONG THEM.
THE DOCTOR'S BEEN AGES! I'LL HAVE TO DISOBEY ORDERS AND ACTIVATE THE SCANNER!
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER!
SWITCH TO CLOSE-UP
IT'S THE DOCTOR!

HE'S IN TROUBLE! HE NEEDS ME! BUT HE TOLD ME TO STAY PUT!
WHAT SHALL I DO? WHAT SHALL I DO?
I COULD PUT ON A DISGUISE THEN GO AND RESCUE HIM!
NO HE'D KNOW IT WAS ME!

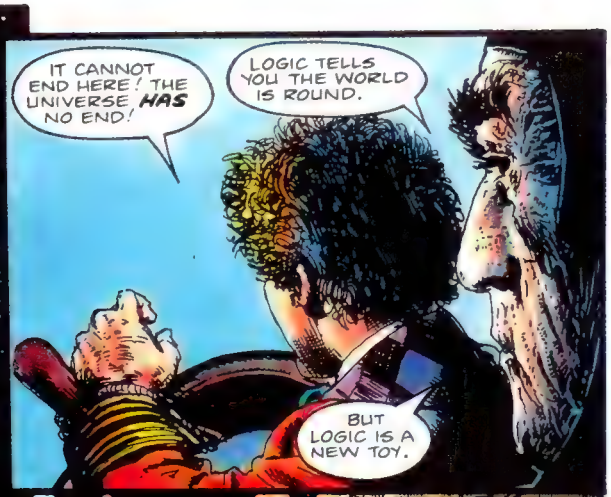

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT! I MUST OBEY MY CONSCIENCE!
HOLD ON, DOC! I'M COMING!
POLICE BOX

PART-TIME ALCHEMIST AND ARCH-FIEND...FLOWER OF MERCY, KNAVE OF SWORDS, CONJURER, CON-MAN, CARD-SHARP...
PUPPETEER...
ASTROLABUS THE THREE-FACED TENDS HIS DEMON DEVICE!
D'ACCORD! THERE'S NO TIME TO BE LOST! NO TIME? HIMMEL! ONCE THERE WAS ETERNITY, BUT NOW THE JIG'S UP...
THE JIG IS UP, MON VIEUX. WE MUST TARRY NO LONGER! PERSEVERANCE FURTHERS!
WE'LL RIDE THE MAGIC TORTOISE TO THE VERY PILLARS OF HEAVEN!
GOOD-BYE... GOODNIGHT...AND THANK YOU!
IT WAS THEN VOYAGER CAME...

COME ON, DOC! YOU CAN MAKE IT! UP ON THE ROCK, DOC!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON? THE R-ROCKS ARE SHAKINGGGG !!!
Ba-Kooooo

A SEARING WHITE BALL OF FIRE HAD ENGULFED THE ALCHEMIST'S CRAFT. WAS THIS A CONJURER'S EXIT? OR WAS VOYAGER POSSESSED OF SUCH DEVASTATING POWER?
THERE WAS NO WAY OF KNOWING...
ESPECIALLY FOR THE DOCTOR, UP TO HIS NECK IN SOMETHING THAT LOOKED AND FELT LIKE WATER...
...BUT WAS, IN FACT, SOLID SPACE.
OH, NO!
DOCTOR! DOCTOR!
AND VOYAGER HIMSELF? FOR ETERNITY HE HAD HAUNTED THE DREAMS OF MEN, SOWING SEEDS OF RESTLESSNESS IN THEIR HEARTS...
TO VOYAGE THROUGH DAYLIGHT AND DARKNESS, GUIDED ONLY BY THE STARS.
PERHAPS HE HAD SAILED THROUGH THE DREAMS OF RASSILON, COUNTLESS AEONS AGO, OR PERHAPS NOT. RASSILON WAS A LORD OF TIME...
VOYAGER A LORD OF LIFE...
BUT IN THE FEAR-HAUNTED DREAM OF THIS TIME-LORD VOYAGER WAS EITHER A GHOST... OR A GOD!

GAZE UPON THE VOID, TIME-LORD... THE UNIVERSE ENDS HERE!


IT CANNOT END HERE! THE UNIVERSE HAS NO END!
LOGIC TELLS YOU THE WORLD IS ROUND.
BUT LOGIC IS A NEW TOY.

TO THE VERY EDGE THEY WENT... TO THE EDGE AND BEYOND...

IT CAN'T END HERE! IT CAN'T!

DOCTOR! DOCTOR! GET AWAY FROM THE EDGE! GET AWAY!

WHAT?
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE, DOC... YOU'LL GO OVER!
VOYAGER! WHERE IS HE?
WHO? THERE'S JUST US, DOC. AND THERE'S A STORM BREWING!
WE'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE TARDIS! THESE ROCKS WILL BE COVERED IN NO TIME!
THE LIGHTHOUSE... GONE ... AND ASTROLABUS WITH IT...
REMEMBER MY POWER, TIME-LORD. THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE. I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS...
UNLESS YOU RETURN THAT WHICH IS MINE!
THE CHARTS STOLEN FROM ME BY THE TIME-LORDS!
BUT ASTROLABUS WAS BANISHED BY THE TIME-LORDS! HE WAS NOT ONE OF US!
POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX
POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX

IT WAS HE WHO STOLE YOUR CHARTS! AND NOW HE MAY BE DEAD!
RETURN THEM TO ME...OR YOU MAY FIND YOUR UNIVERSE HAS COME TO AN END.
RETURN THEM TO ME...
GOSH, I'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE THIS PLACE, DOC. WHERE SHALL WE GO NOW?
AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE!
VWORP!
"AND REMEMBER...
THERE IS NO ESCAPE..."

DOCTOR WHO
POLLY THE GLOT
THIS IS TERMINAL L.X. 116/R.M... THE CROSSROADS OF AN ENTIRE GALAXY. INCOMING SHUTTLES DOCK HERE, BRINGING PASSENGERS IN FROM THE BIG, DEEP-SPACE LINERS MOORED BEYOND THE PLANETS...
FOR SOME LONG-FORGOTTEN REASON, THE TERMINAL WAS KNOWN AS "GALENA"...

...AND SHE WAS THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE FOR THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF TRAVELLERS, NOT TO MENTION THE VAGABONDS AND SHUTTLE-SPOTTERS ... AND A HOST OF EMPLOYEES ...
ALL OF WHOM CONTRIVED TO BLOCK THE PASSAGE OF A VERY IMPORTANT TRAVELLER ...
... DR. IVAN ASIMOFF...
MAY I ... I SAY MAY I GET PAST, PLEASE? OH, DEAR ... I SAY MAY I GET PAST?
SOME OF US HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO, YOU KNOW!
DR. IVAN ASIMOFF ... ADVENTURER, SCIENTIST, MILD AND BITTER BY TURNS ... WIT, RACONTEUR AND VAGABOND AT HEART...
OH, MY WORD!
AUTHORITY ON THE LIFE-CYCLE OF THE SIGMAN SAND-WORM ... AND WHAT'S MORE, AN INVINCIBLE ALLY.
IT'S A TARDIS!* IT'S THE TARDIS!
* THE DOCTORS MET IN DR. WHO MONTHLY 56 — ED.
DOCTOR!
AAGHH!
CLONK!

AH, WELL ... TIME TO LOOK AROUND FOR FOOD I THINK ...

DOCTOR!
OOF!

I'M SO SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEBODY ELSE!
THAT'S STRANGE, SO DID I.

IN FACT... I AM SOMEBODY ELSE!

YOU SEE, I COULD HAVE SWORN THIS WAS A TARDIS. THE TARDIS! THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER SEEN, ANYWAY!
AND I WAS HOPING THE DOCTOR WOULD BE HERE.
HE IS. HE'S INSIDE.

POLICE
NO HE ISN'T. HE'S COMING OUT.

WELL, WELL ... DOCTOR ASIMOFF, HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!

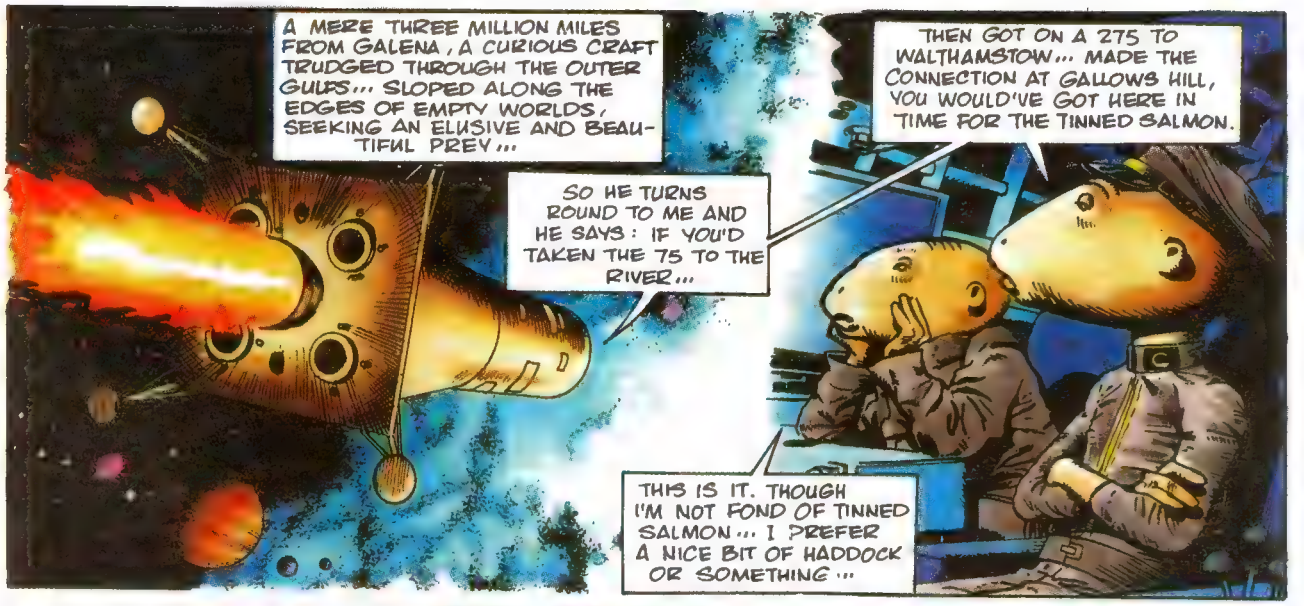
I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE, SIR.
OF COURSE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

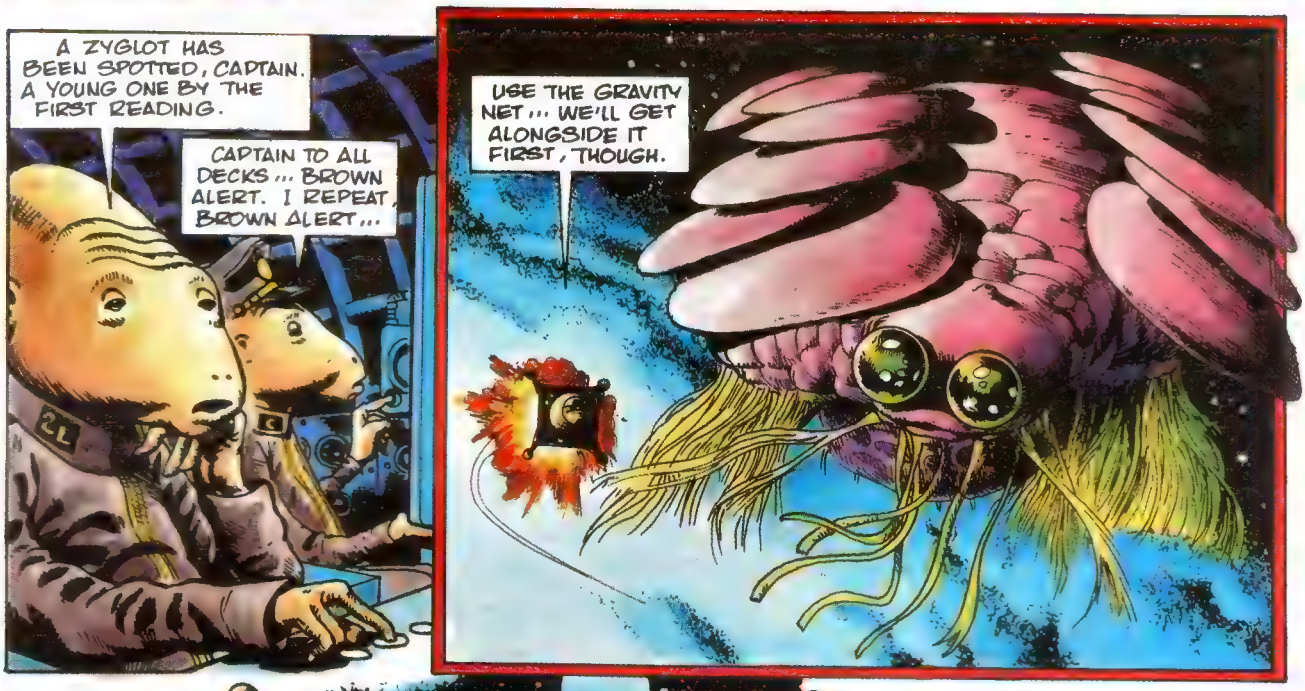
YOU SEE, I'VE ... CHANGED MY APPEARANCE SINCE WE LAST MET. SEVERAL TIMES IN FACT.
AN UNFORTUNATE NECESSITY ...
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE SOMEBODY ELSE, TOO?

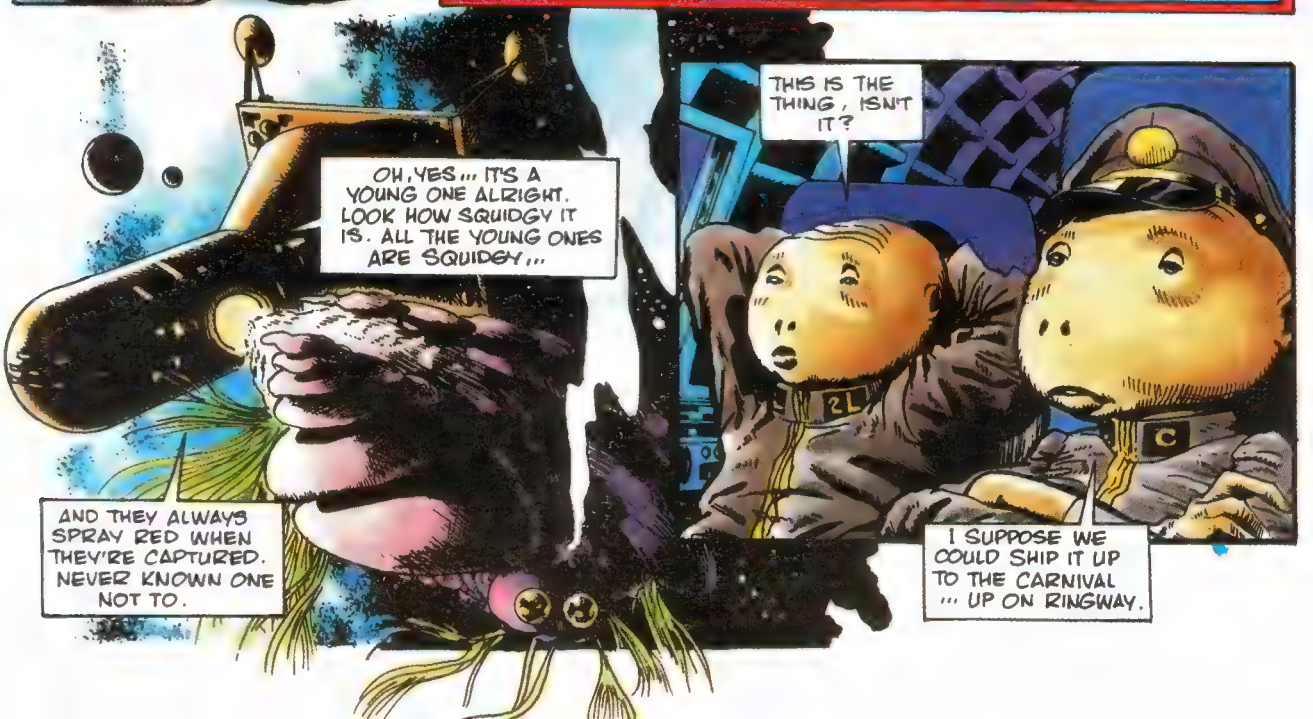
I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE BUSY. WE'VE BEEN TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, NOW WE'RE AT THE CENTRE.

THE CENTRE OF A GALAXY! MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF STARS ... THOUSANDS OF INHABITED PLANETS...

AND WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ON ONE OF THEM WITH THE TREASURER OF THE 'SAVE THE ZYGLOT' TRUST...


A MERE THREE MILLION MILES FROM GALENA, A CURIOUS CRAFT TRUDGED THROUGH THE OUTER GULFS... SLOPED ALONG THE EDGES OF EMPTY WORLDS, SEEKING AN ELUSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL PREY...
SO HE TURNS ROUND TO ME AND HE SAYS: IF YOU'D TAKEN THE 75 TO THE RIVER...
THEN GOT ON A 275 TO WALTHAMSTOW... MADE THE CONNECTION AT GALLOWS HILL, YOU WOULD'VE GOT HERE IN TIME FOR THE TINNED SALMON.
THIS IS IT. THOUGH I'M NOT FOND OF TINNED SALMON... I PREFER A NICE BIT OF HADDOCK OR SOMETHING...

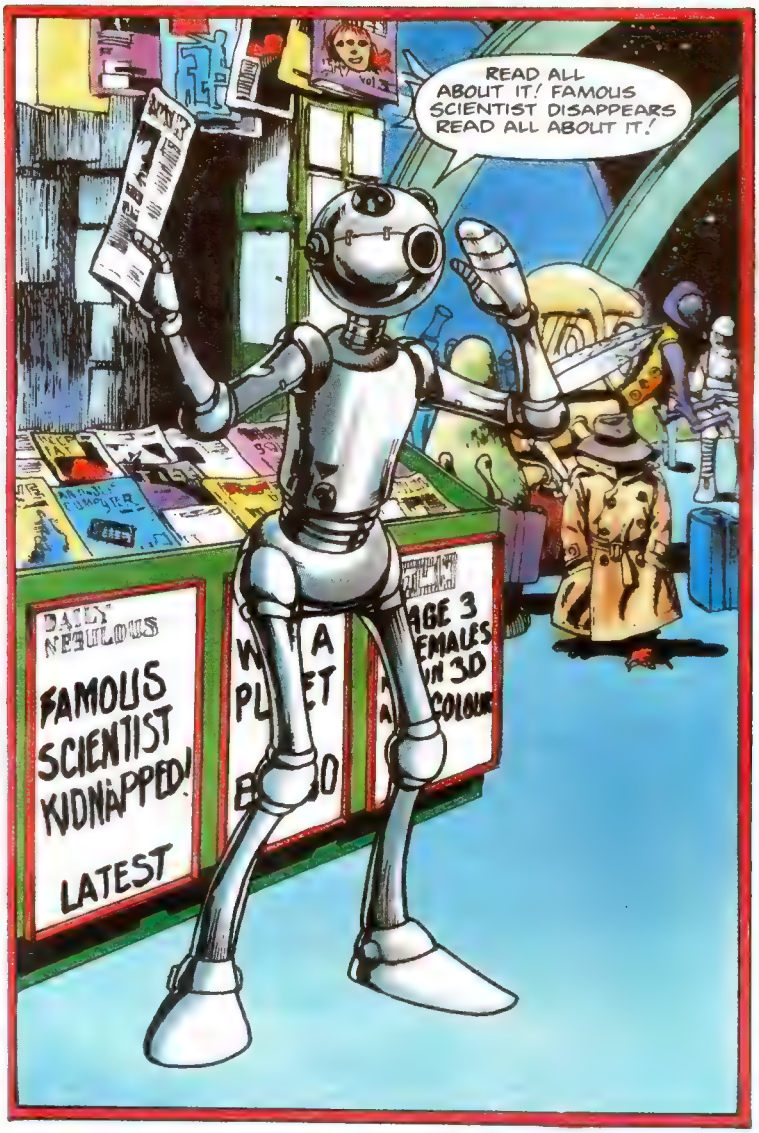

A ZYGLOT HAS BEEN SPOTTED, CAPTAIN. A YOUNG ONE BY THE FIRST READING.
CAPTAIN TO ALL DECKS... BROWN ALERT. I REPEAT, BROWN ALERT...
USE THE GRAVITY NET... WE'LL GET ALONGSIDE IT FIRST, THOUGH.


OH, YES... IT'S A YOUNG ONE ALRIGHT. LOOK HOW SQUIDGY IT IS. ALL THE YOUNG ONES ARE SQUIDGY...
AND THEY ALWAYS SPRAY RED WHEN THEY'RE CAPTURED. NEVER KNOWN ONE NOT TO.
THIS IS THE THING, ISN'T IT?
I SUPPOSE WE COULD SHIP IT UP TO THE CARNIVAL ... UP ON RINGWAY.

THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL WAS ANOTHER KIND OF CROSSROADS. LESS FUNCTIONAL THAN GALENA, BUT WITH A MACABRE CHARM OF ITS OWN...
THREE LEGGED MAN
HECK! THAT'S THE DARN'DEST THING I EVER SAW!
AMONGST THE DROSS OF A HUNDRED PLANETS ... THE FREAKS, THE GEEKS AND THE CAPTIVE SNARKS, CLOSE BY THE DRONGO WITH SEVEN STOMACHS...
SNARK
WAS THE ONLY ZYGLOT IN CAPTIVITY...
STRICTLY SPEAKING, POLLY WAS A GLOT... A SUBSPECIES OF THE ZYGLOT. BUT HER BEAUTY WAS UNDENIABLE...
ESPECIALLY TO A CERTAIN VISITOR WHO HAD RECENTLY PASSED THIS WAY...
OH, POLLY... YOU'RE SO... BEAUTIFUL.

IT WAS THEN DOCTOR IVAN ASIMOFF KNEW HE WAS IN LOVE.
ZYGLOT
PG TRIPS
PAN GALACTICA
POLLY... DON'T LOSE HEART... I'LL... RESCUE... POLLY...
I'LL SAVE YOU, POLLY!
EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, SIR?
YES... YES THANKYOU. I WAS JUST... ER, NODDING OFF.
WE'LL BE DOCKING WITH THE LINER IN A FEW MINUTES, SIR.
ANOTHER FOUR HOURS AND I'LL BE AT THE MEETING. AND WHAT DO I TELL THEM?
THAT THE ZYGLOTS ARE STILL BEING HUNTED FOR THEIR COLOURS? THAT THEY'RE BECOMING CARNIVAL SIDESHOWS?
AND THAT THE ZYGLOT TRUST IS FAILING THROUGH LACK OF FUNDS?
WELL, DOC. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO?
YES. THE DOCTOR KNOWS I CAN'T ABIDE A MYSTERY... SO HE'S LEFT ME A MYSTERY TO CHEW ON...
SOMEWHERE IN THAT LITTLE CEPHALOPOD'S MIND, SOMETHING IS STEWING...

SO I THINK WE'LL HEAD HIM OFF AT THE DEEP-DOCKING BAYS...
JUST A SECOND, DOC! I'LL STOCK UP WITH SOME CHOCOLATE PILCHARDS!
CHOCOLATE WHAT??
VWORP! VWORP!
I DO HOPE THE DOCTOR DECIDES TO LEND A HAND. HE'D BE ABSOLUTELY INVALUABLE TO OUR CAUSE...
WELL, OF ALL THE...!
OKAY, BLUE EYES... STEP THIS WAY AND NO FANCY MOVES!
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?
DOCTOR! I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS!
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, DOCTOR... YOU'VE JUST BEEN KIDNAPPED!


READ ALL ABOUT IT! FAMOUS SCIENTIST DISAPPEARS READ ALL ABOUT IT!
DAILY NEBULOUS
FAMOUS SCIENTIST KIDNAPPED!
LATEST

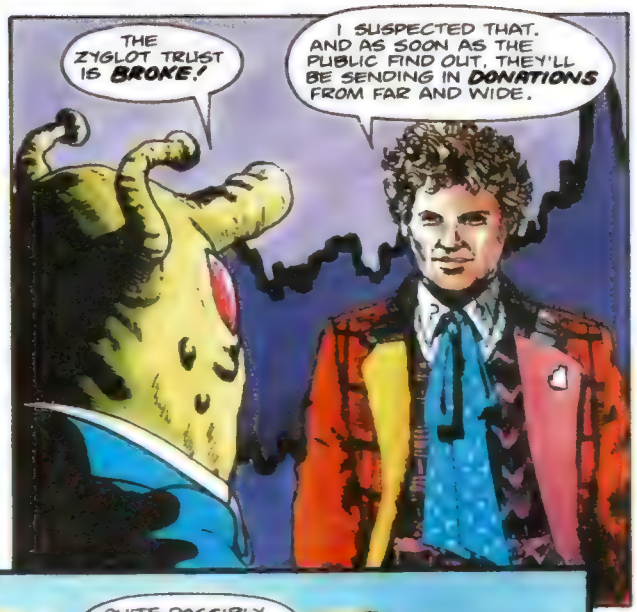
I THINK THE DOCTOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS STORY...
SCIENTIST
KIDNAPPED!
LATEST

SURE ENOUGH...
INTERESTING... VERY INTERESTING. I THINK THE DOCTOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS STORY...
IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT...

IN THE NEXT ROOM, DOCTOR ASIMOFF HIMSELF PREPARES FOR ANOTHER DAY OF DEPRIVATION...

AH, DOCTOR! HOW MUCH LONGER AM I TO BE SUBJECTED TO THIS ORDEAL?

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THE ZYGLOT TRUST TO PAY A RANSOM FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN?
RANSOM? THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY PAY A RANSOM!


THE ZYGLOT TRUST IS BROKE!
I SUSPECTED THAT. AND AS SOON AS THE PUBLIC FIND OUT, THEY'LL BE SENDING IN DONATIONS FROM FAR AND WIDE.

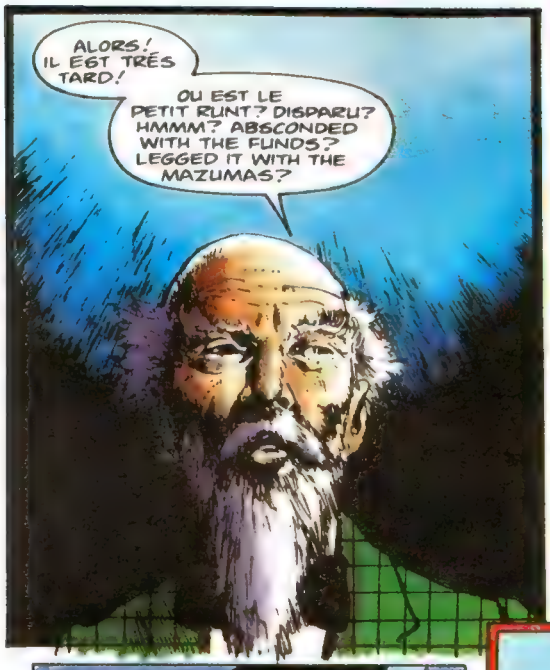
YOU MEAN... YOU KIDNAPPED ME FOR A PUBLICITY STUNT? BUT THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!
THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUST WILL BE FURIOUS!

QUITE POSSIBLY. BY THE WAY, WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRUST?

HIS NAME IS LABUS. PROFESSOR ASTRO LABUS.

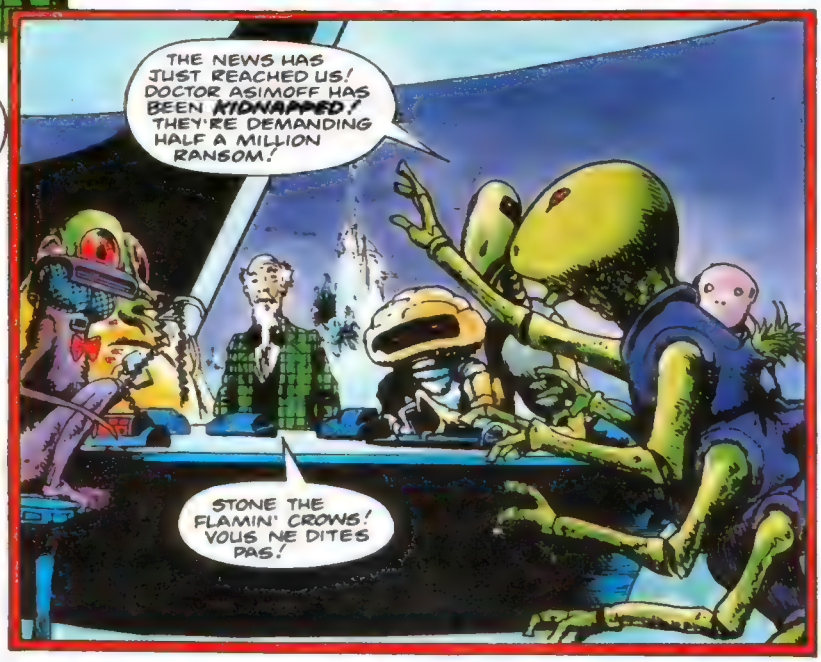
SOMETHING REVERBERATED THEN IN THE DOCTOR'S BRAIN. A SENSATION SOUNDED IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS MIND LIKE A WHALE... THE REALITY OF A FLOOR BENEATH HIS FEET SIMPLY CEASED.

...AND HE FELL.


ALORS! IL EST TRÈS TARD!
OU EST LE PETIT RUNT? DISPARU? HMMM? ABSCONDED WITH THE FUNDS? LEGGED IT WITH THE MAZUMAS?

IT'S MOST UNLIKE THE DOCTOR TO BE LATE, MISTER PRESIDENT.
NO MATTER. WE'LL START THE MEETING... SANS ASIMOFF!

I NOW CALL TO ORDER THE NINTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAVE THE ZYGLOT TRUST...
TAP TAP
MISTER CHAIRMAN! MISTER CHAIRMAN!


THE NEWS HAS JUST REACHED US! DOCTOR ASIMOFF HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED! THEY'RE DEMANDING HALF A MILLION RANSOM!
STONE THE FLAMIN' CROWS! VOUS NE DITES PAS!

I SMELL A RAT HERE, GENTLEMEN. I SMELL A BIG, FAT FURRY RAT...
AND THROW IN A PENGUIN FOR GOOD MEASURE!

DOCTOR? DOCTOR, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

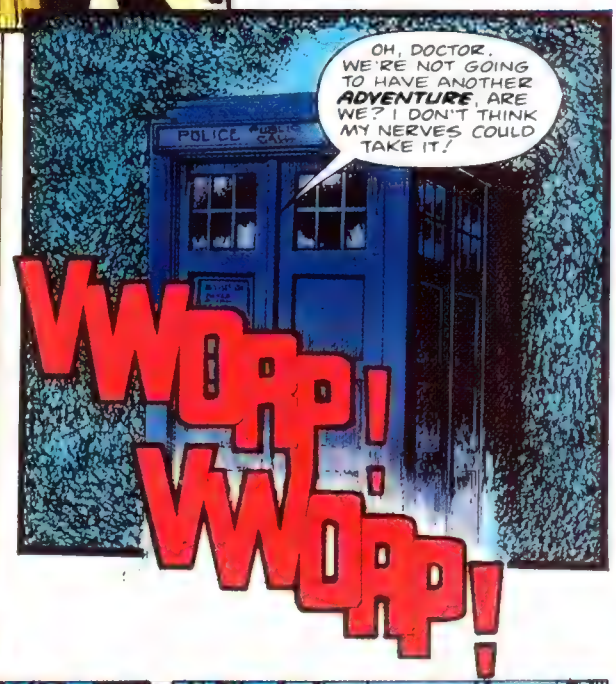
OOH... WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU MUST'VE FAINTED OR SOMETHING.

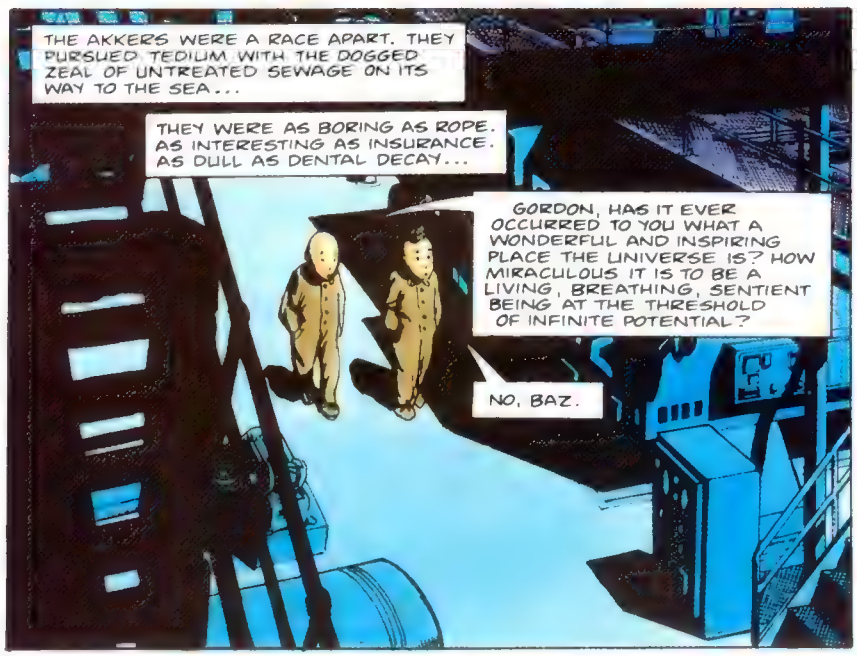
I DON'T THINK SO... I'M NOT THE FAINTING KIND...

I BELIEVE I'M UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME KIND OF **POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION**...
BUT EVEN SO, I CAN STILL **THINK** QUITE CLEARLY...

THE FIRST PART OF THE JIGSAW IS BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.
THE SECOND AND THIRD PARTS WILL REVEAL THEMSELVES WITH A LITTLE MORE **EFFORT**...

DOCTOR, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNTING THE ZYGLOTS...
THE **AKKERS**, REPUTED TO BE THE **DULLEST** RACE IN THE GALAXY!
QUITE SO. I THINK IT'S TIME WE PAID THEM A **VISIT**!


OH, DOCTOR. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER **ADVENTURE**, ARE WE? I DON'T THINK MY NERVES COULD TAKE IT!
POLICE
VWORP! VWORP!


THE AKKERS WERE A RACE APART. THEY PURSUED TEDIUM WITH THE DOGGED ZEAL OF UNTREATED SEWAGE ON ITS WAY TO THE SEA...
THEY WERE AS BORING AS ROPE. AS INTERESTING AS INSURANCE. AS DULL AS DENTAL DECAY...
GORDON, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU WHAT A WONDERFUL AND INSPIRING PLACE THE UNIVERSE IS? HOW MIRACULOUS IT IS TO BE A LIVING, BREATHING, SENTIENT BEING AT THE THRESHOLD OF INFINITE POTENTIAL?
NO, BAZ.

NO, ME NEITHER, GORDON.

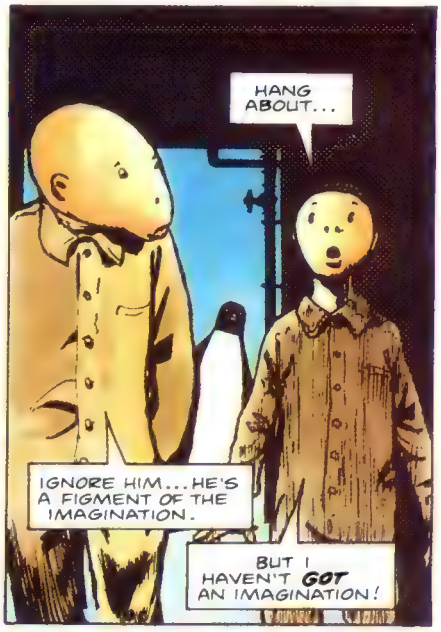
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, DOCTOR?
WE'RE AFTER INFORMATION, DOCTOR. HOW THE ZYGLOTS ARE CAPTURED, HOW THEY'RE CONTAINED ...AND WHAT MOTIVATES THE AKKERS. IF ANYTHING...

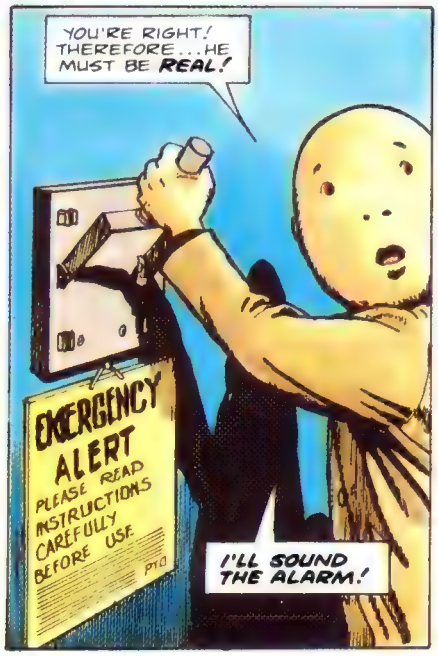
IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO BE ARMED? I DON'T FEEL QUITE COMFORTABLE WITH THIS HORRID WEAPON...
IT'S ONLY A STUN WEAPON, DOCTOR. TO DEFEND YOURSELF IN CASE WE GET SPLIT UP.

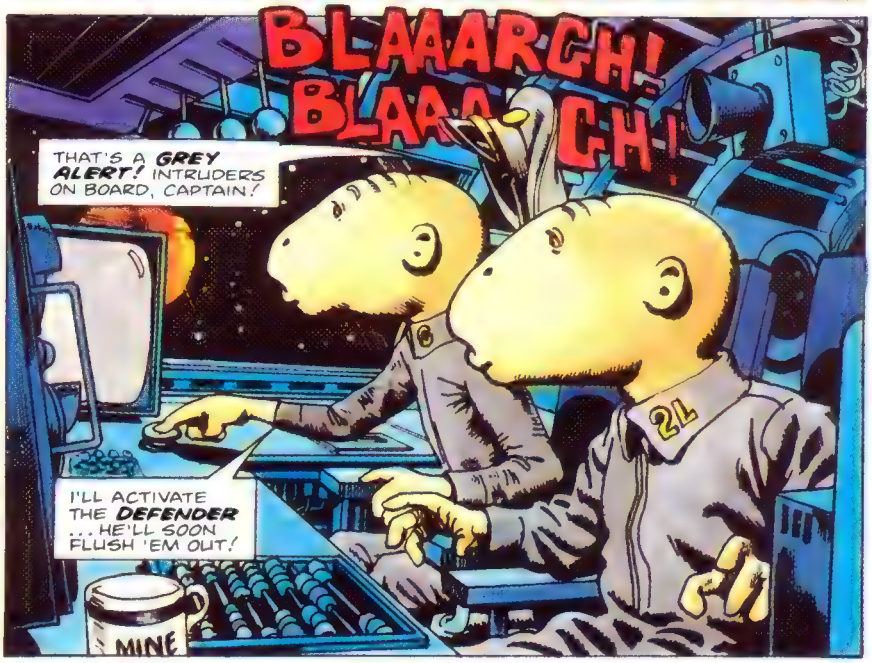
WHILE THOSE TWO PLAY HEROES, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS RUSTBUCKET...

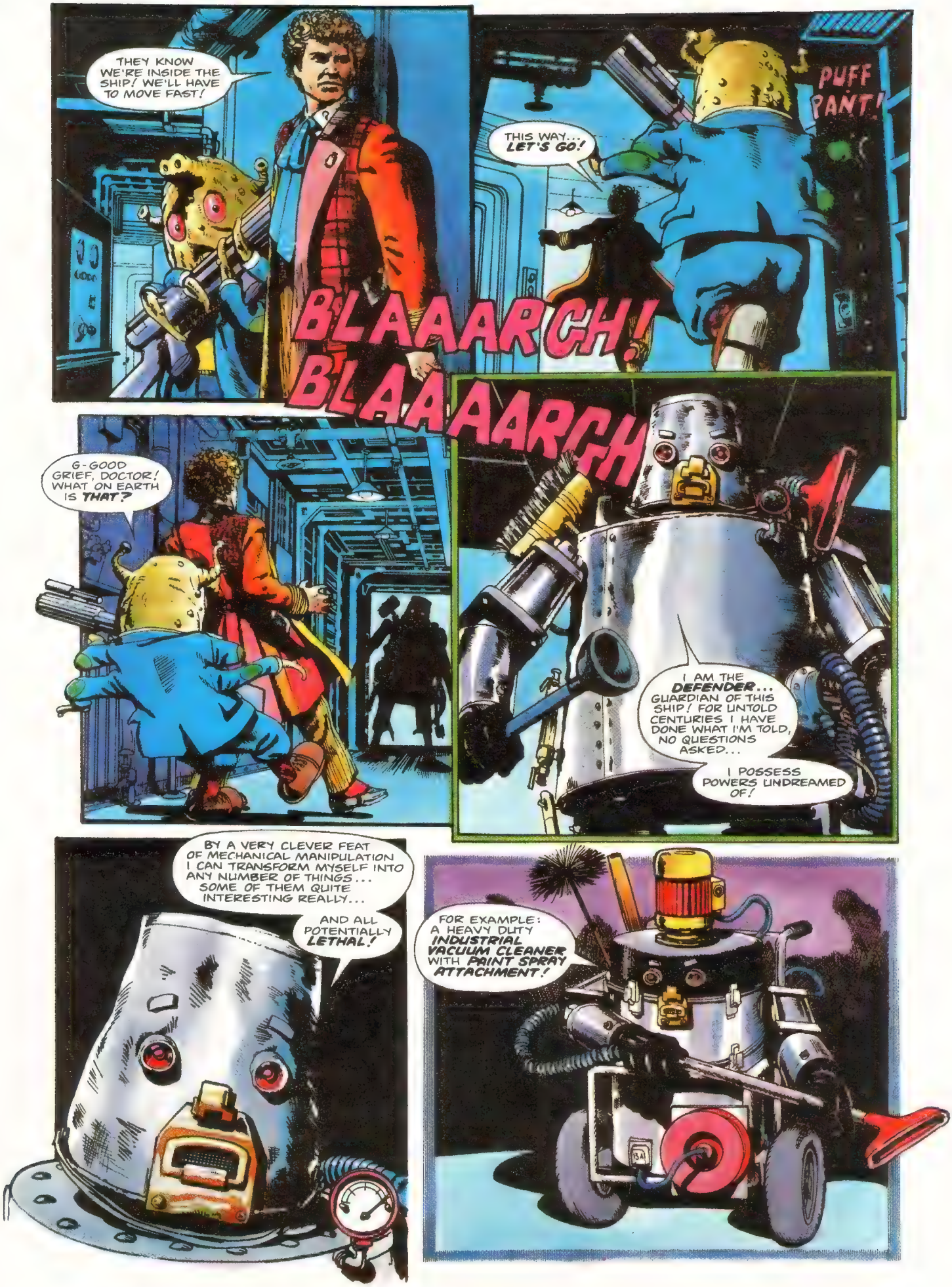
HERE'S A LIKELY LOOKING PAIR.

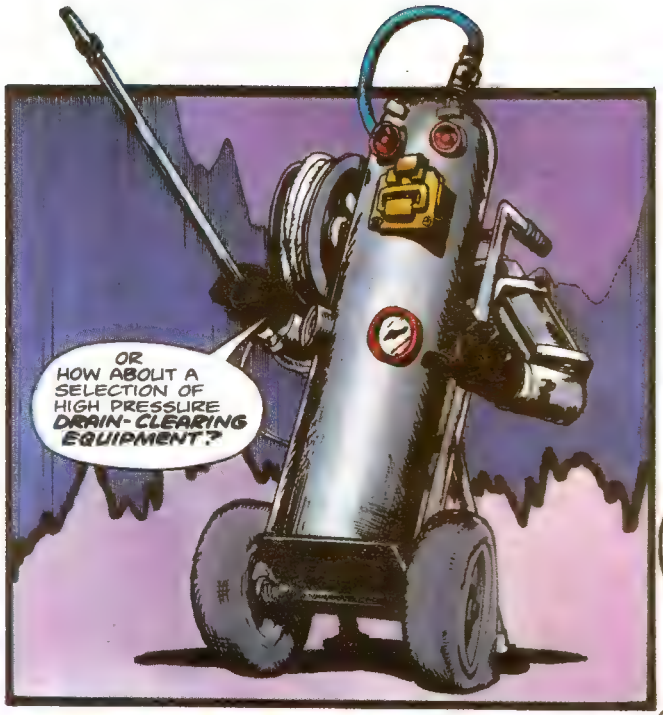
EXCUSE ME. WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE ZYGLOTS?

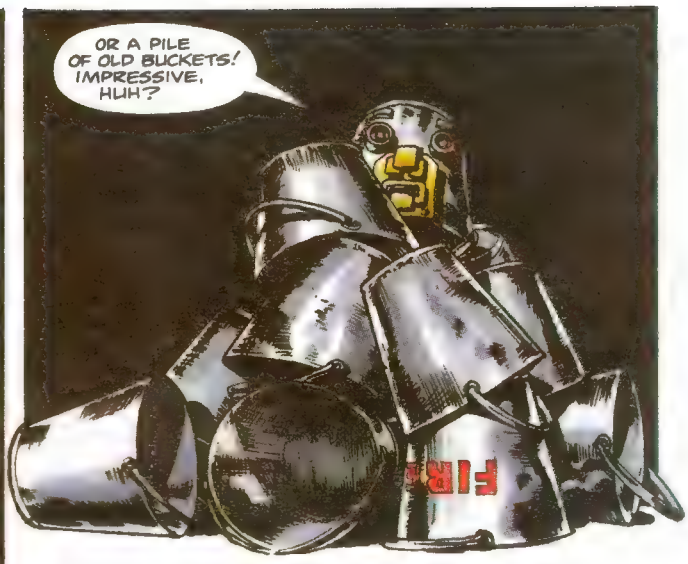

HANG ABOUT...
IGNORE HIM...HE'S A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION.
BUT I HAVEN'T GOT AN IMAGINATION!

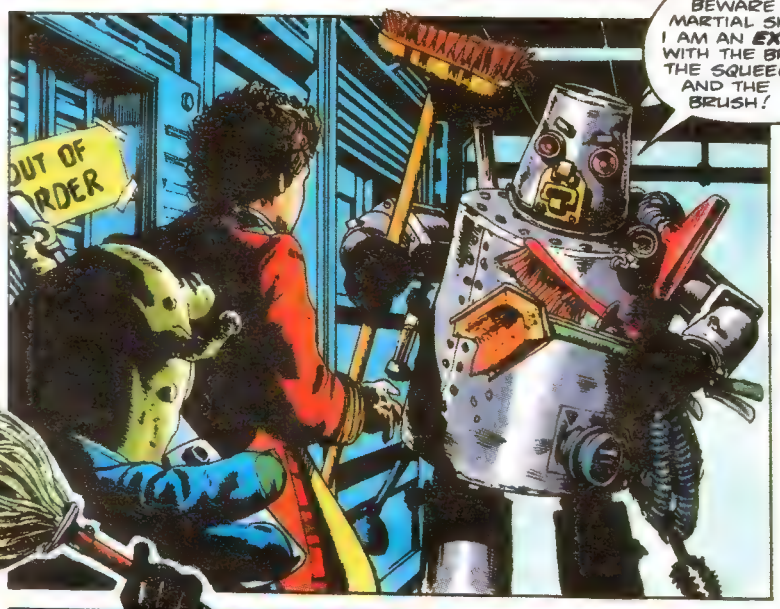

YOU'RE RIGHT! THEREFORE...HE MUST BE REAL!
EMERGENCY ALERT
PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USE
PTO
I'LL SOUND THE ALARM!


BLAAARGH! BLAAARGH!
THAT'S A GREY ALERT! INTRUDERS ON BOARD, CAPTAIN!
I'LL ACTIVATE THE DEFENDER ...HE'LL SOON FLUSH 'EM OUT!
2L
MINE


THEY KNOW WE'RE INSIDE THE SHIP! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST!
THIS WAY... LET'S GO!
PUFF PANT!
BLAAARCH!
BLAAAARCH
G-GOOD GRIEF, DOCTOR! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
I AM THE DEFENDER... GUARDIAN OF THIS SHIP! FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES I HAVE DONE WHAT I'M TOLD, NO QUESTIONS ASKED...
I POSSESS POWERS UNDREAMED OF!
BY A VERY CLEVER FEAT OF MECHANICAL MANIPULATION I CAN TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO ANY NUMBER OF THINGS... SOME OF THEM QUITE INTERESTING REALLY...
AND ALL POTENTIALLY LETHAL!
FOR EXAMPLE: A HEAVY DUTY INDUSTRIAL VACUUM CLEANER WITH PAINT SPRAY ATTACHMENT!


OR HOW ABOUT A SELECTION OF HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN-CLEARING EQUIPMENT?


OR A PILE OF OLD BUCKETS! IMPRESSIVE, HUH?

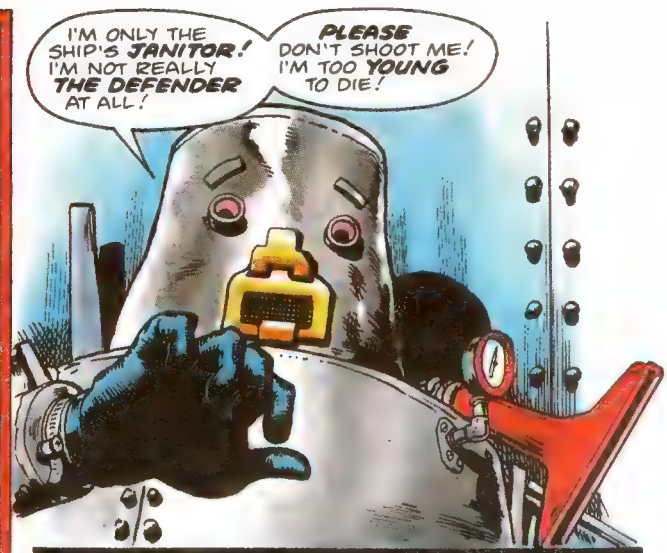

BEWARE MY MARTIAL SKILLS! I AM AN EXPERT WITH THE BROOM, THE SQUEEGEE AND THE BRUSH!
OUT OF ORDER

BUT MOST OF ALL... I AM A SPECIALIST WITH THE MOP!
BOP!

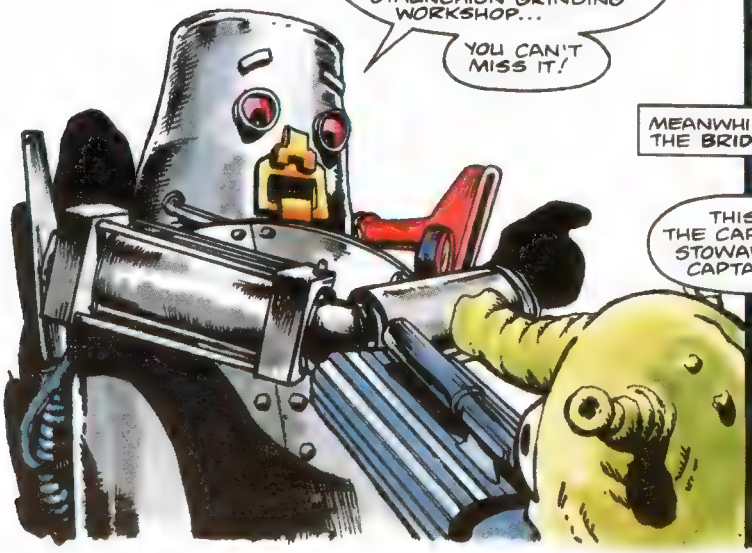
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU BOPPED THE DOC WITH A MOP!
MADE IN JAPAN

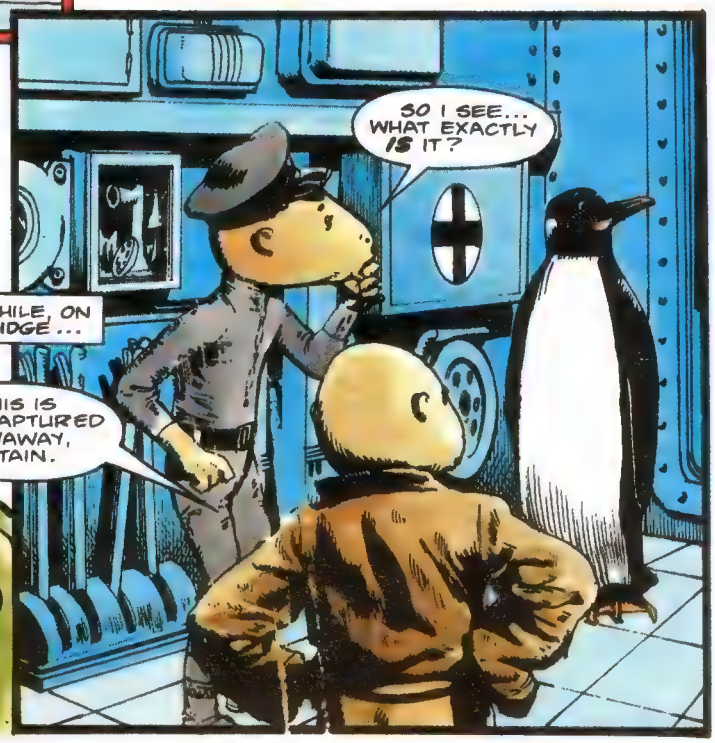
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU MONSTER! ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL BLAST YOU TO SMITHEREENS!

ZYGLOTS, THE RAREST CREATURES IN THE GALAXY, ARE BEING RUTHLESSLY HUNTED FOR THEIR COLOURS BY THE DULLEST RACE IN THE UNIVERSE — THE AKKERS...
BOARDING AN AKKER SHIP, THE TWO DOCTORS ARE FACED WITH A BIZARRE AND NOT QUITE DEADLY ROBOT GUARDIAN...
DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!


I'M ONLY THE SHIP'S JANITOR! I'M NOT REALLY THE DEFENDER AT ALL!
PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

ALL RIGHT. TELL ME WHERE THE COMMANDER OF THIS SHIP IS... AND QUICK!


HE'S UP ON THE BRIDGE... TH-THAT WAY... TURN RIGHT AT THE SLUICE LOCKERS, SECOND LEFT AFTER THE SLUDGE HOLDS AND STRAIGHT THROUGH THE STAUNCHION GRINDING WORKSHOP...
YOU CAN'T MISS IT!


MEANWHILE, ON THE BRIDGE...
SO I SEE... WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?
THIS IS THE CAPTURED STOWAWAY, CAPTAIN.

ACCORDING TO MY "WONDERFUL WORLD OF NATURE" ANNUAL, IT'S A TERRAN SEA-FOWL OF THE ALCIDAE FAMILY DESCENDED FROM THE GREAT AUK, A FLIGHTLESS BIRD NOW EXTINCT...

FOUND IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, USUALLY CONGREGATING AT POLAR REGIONS WHERE THEY...
THANK YOU, I GET THE PICTURE. THE POINT IS, CAN WE MAKE ANYTHING OUT OF IT?

WE COULD ALWAYS SELL IT TO THE CARNIVAL, CAPTAIN.
GOOD. STOW IT IN THE FORWARD HOLD.
WATCH THE STEP!

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH... STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!

DOCTOR! THEY'VE GOT YOUR STRANGE LITTLE FRIEND! SHALL I ZAP 'EM?
IS THAT THE RIGHT EXPRESSION?

I APOLOGISE FOR THIS INTRUSION, CAPTAIN. BUT I WARN YOU MY FRIEND HERE IS PREPARED TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? YOU MAY LOOK LIKE VAGABONDS, BUT YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT PIRATES!

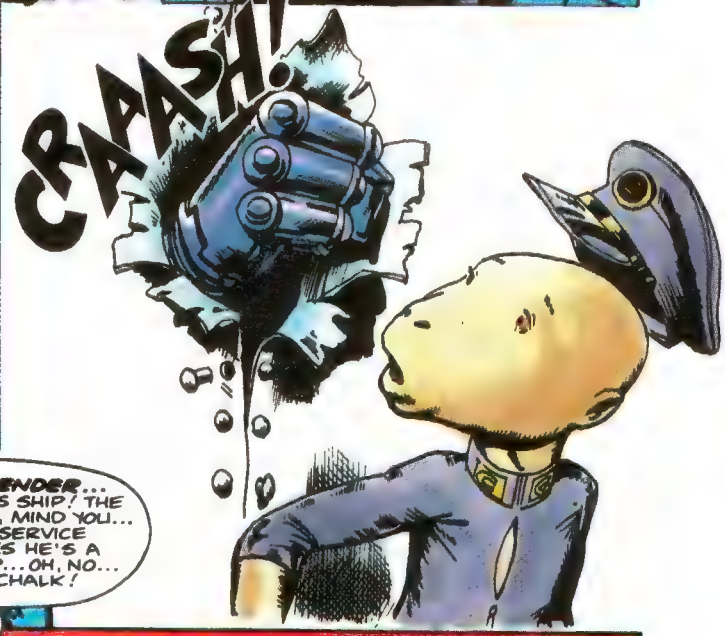
RELEASE THE ZYGLOTS! IMMEDIATELY! OR I SHALL RUN RAMPANT THROUGHOUT YOUR SHIP!
WITH MY FRIEND HERE AS WELL, OF COURSE...

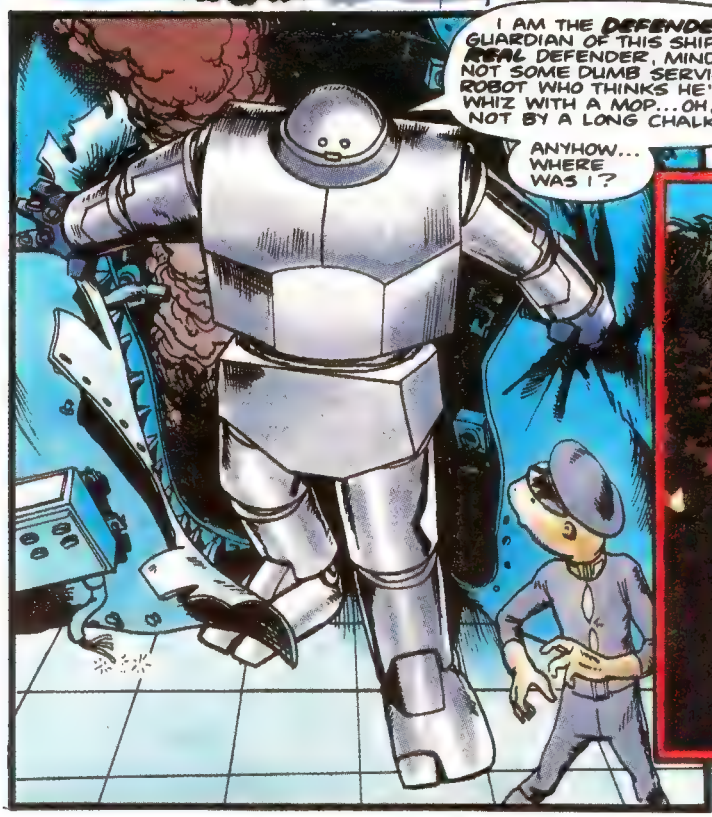
BUT WE ONLY HAVE ONE LITTLE ZYGLOT. A YOUNG ONE. NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH REALLY. CERTAINLY NOT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR!
I SAID RELEASE IT!

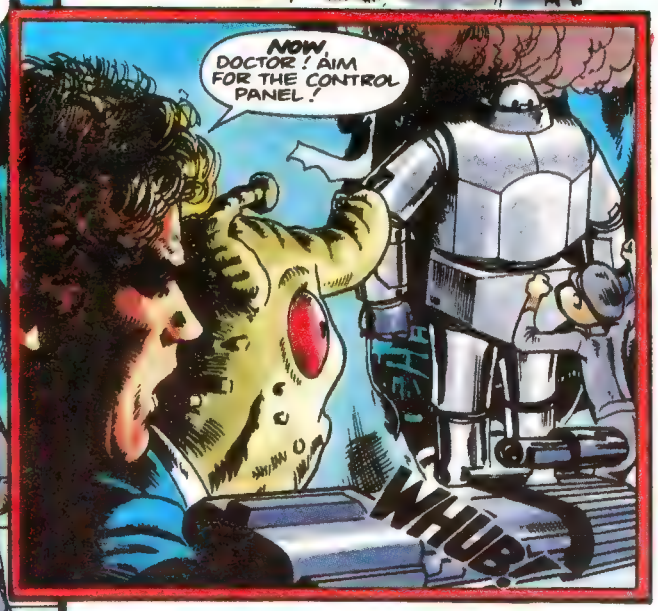
IF YOU THREATEN ME, I'LL PUSH THIS BUTTON. THE GRAVITY NET WILL TIGHTEN AND THE ZYGLOT WILL BE CRUSHED UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT!

WHY, YOU INSIPID LITTLE WORM! IF I WASN'T A CIVILISED BEING I'D DROP YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
STEADY ON, OLD CHAP.

SO... YOU HAVE A CHOICE, HAVEN'T YOU? PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON, OR THE ZYGLOT DIES!


CRAASH!

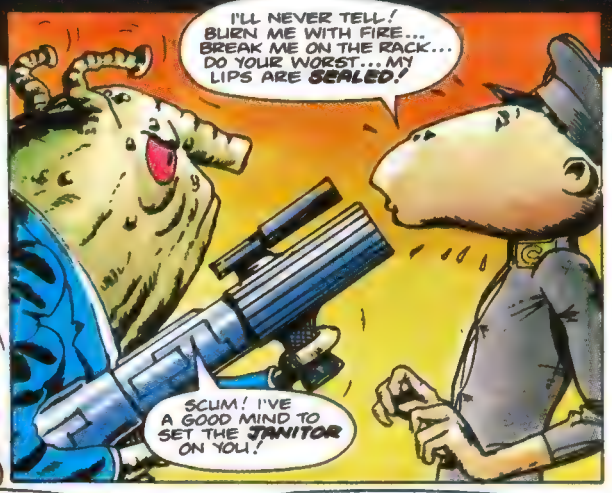

I AM THE DEFENDER... GUARDIAN OF THIS SHIP! THE REAL DEFENDER, MIND YOU... NOT SOME DUMB SERVICE ROBOT WHO THINKS HE'S A WHIZ WITH A MOP... OH, NO... NOT BY A LONG CHALK!
ANYHOW... WHERE WAS I?


NOW, DOCTOR! AIM FOR THE CONTROL PANEL!
WHUB!

FWAAB!

WE'VE DONE IT! THE ZYGLOT IS FREE!

WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS? YOU HAVEN'T THE BRAINS TO ORGANISE A ZYGLOT HUNT BY YOURSELF! WHO'S PAYING YOU?


I'LL NEVER TELL! BURN ME WITH FIRE... BREAK ME ON THE RACK... DO YOUR WORST... MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
SCUM! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO SET THE JANITOR ON YOU!

CURSE YOU! IT'S THE OWNER OF THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL WHO'S PAYING US! THE GREAT SWAMI ASTRAL ARBUS!

THE LITTLE RAT! THE DIRTY LITTLE RAT! THE LITTLE PILE OF FERTILISER HAS FINKED ON ME!
AAGH! REND MY GARMENTS IN TWAIN... OR EVEN THREAIN! I AM BETRAYED!

WHAT A ROTTEN SWIZZ! NAUGHT AVAILETH! I HAD THE WORLD ON A STRING... I WAS SITTIN' ON A RAINBOW!
WHAT A TREACHEROUS BRUTE LIFE IS!

DO I HEAR A VWORP? DO I HEAR TWO VWORPS?
WHAT? ARE THEY ON TO ME SO SOON?
VWORP
VWORP
THE MYSTIC ASTRAL
ASTROLOGER ROYAL
•APPENDAGES READ
•FORTUNES DIVINED
BRING YOUR OWN TEA-BAGS
SAN FAIRY ANNE! NOTHING MATTERS! EASY COME, EASY GO... ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS...
AS THE SUN SINKS SLOWLY IN THE WEST, WE MUST SAY OUR SAD FAREWELL TO THE RINGWAY CARNIVAL... TO THE SNARKS AND THEIR LARKS AND THE MARKS AND SPARKS...
FAREWELL AND ADIEU!

BUT! ALL CREATION IS AN OYSTER...AND I AM A PEARL! A PEARL OF WISDOM, A PEARL AND DEAN. KNIT ONE, PURL ONE... A DIA-MOND AM I! AN EMERALD!

AN EMERALD SET IN A SILVER SEA! I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN, TO THE LONELY SEA AND THE SKY.
-SIGH-

IT WAS A NICE SCAM WHILE IT LASTED... BUT MY HEART WASN'T IN IT. OU EST MON COEUR? IL EST DANS LA SALLE A MANGER! FRITZ SPIEGEL, I AM WASTED!
I AM COSMIC STUFF TRAPPED IN THE TIN BOX OF LIFE! I AM SPLENDOUR IN A CAN! -SOB-

HOOTS! IT'S A WEE SLEEKIT TIMOROUS BEASTIE! BEGONE, MISCREANT!
JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MISTER ASTROLABUS ...OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS!

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, PAL! ONE FALSE MOVE AN' IT'S A FLIPPER IN THE KISSER!

NOT SO FAST, MY FINE FEATHERED FRIEND! TO THE BATPOLES, ROBIN
I'D LOVE TO STOP AND PLAY, BUT INSTEAD I'LL HAVE TO SAY... ARRIVEDERCI!

BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY!

GASP! THEY'VE GONE! VANISHED!

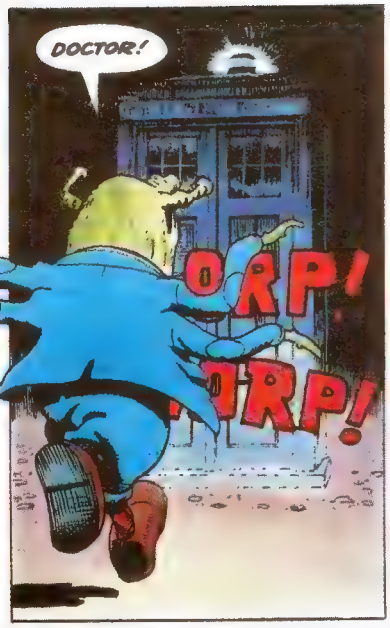
DOCTOR! DOCTOR! FROBISHER'S BEEN KIDNAPPED! ABDUCTED! STOLEN!

TAKE COVER, DOCTOR... THERE'S GOING TO BE AN EXPLOSION ANY MINUTE!

WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I'VE ADJUSTED THE GRAVITY NULLIFIERS ON POLLY'S VOID-TRAP.

THERE'S NOW A ZERO-GRAVITY FIELD STRETCHING ABOVE THE TRAP AND INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE. SHE'LL BE HAPPIER UP THERE THAN IN A CAGE.
?
?

WHOOOM!
THERE SHE GOES!
THE LONG MONTHS OF CONFINEMENT AND CAPTIVITY FELL AWAY AS POLLY DRIFTED COMFORTABLY IN THE UPPER REACHES...
SHE STRETCHED HER TENDRILS LUXURIOUSLY, ALLOWING A SLIGHT BREEZE TO CARRY HER AWAY. AND IN HER DELIGHT AND EXULTATION...
SHE BLOSSOMED...



"ALWAYS LOOK TO THE FUTURE. The Doctor."

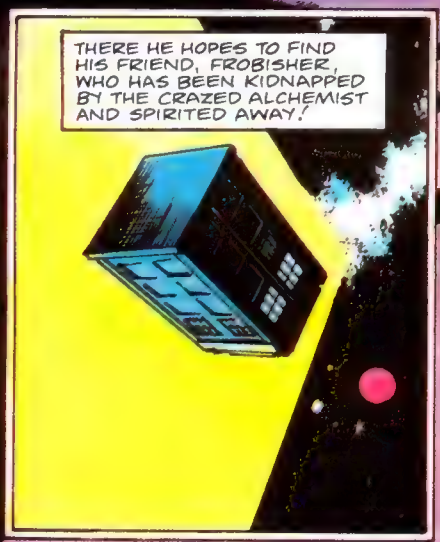
HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. HERE'S TO YOU, DOCTOR. TO YOU... THE FUTURE... AND THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

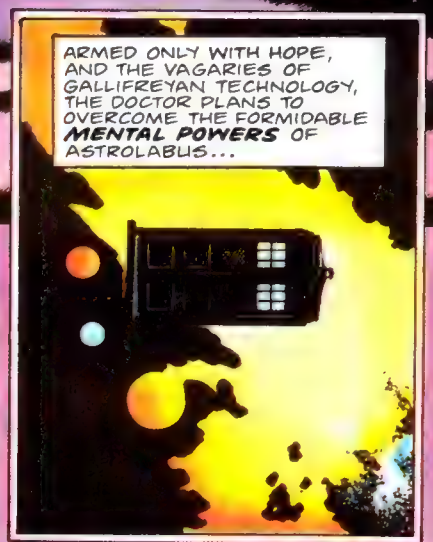
AND MAY HEAVEN HELP US ALL.

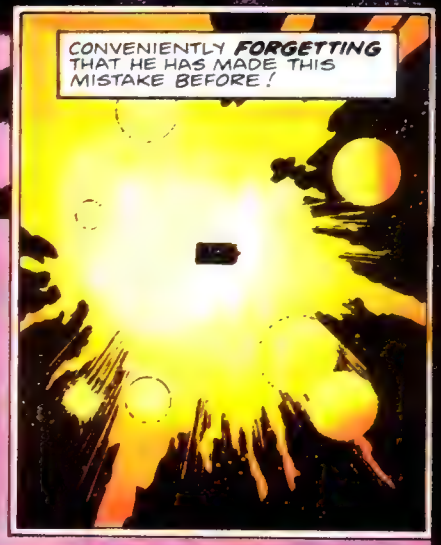
Once Upon a Time~Lord . . .

THROWING CAUTION TO THE WINDS, THE DOCTOR HAS SENT THE TARDIS SPINNING INTO THE UNKNOWN DIMENSIONS OF A MAGICIAN'S CABINET!

THE CABINET OF ASTROLABUS!



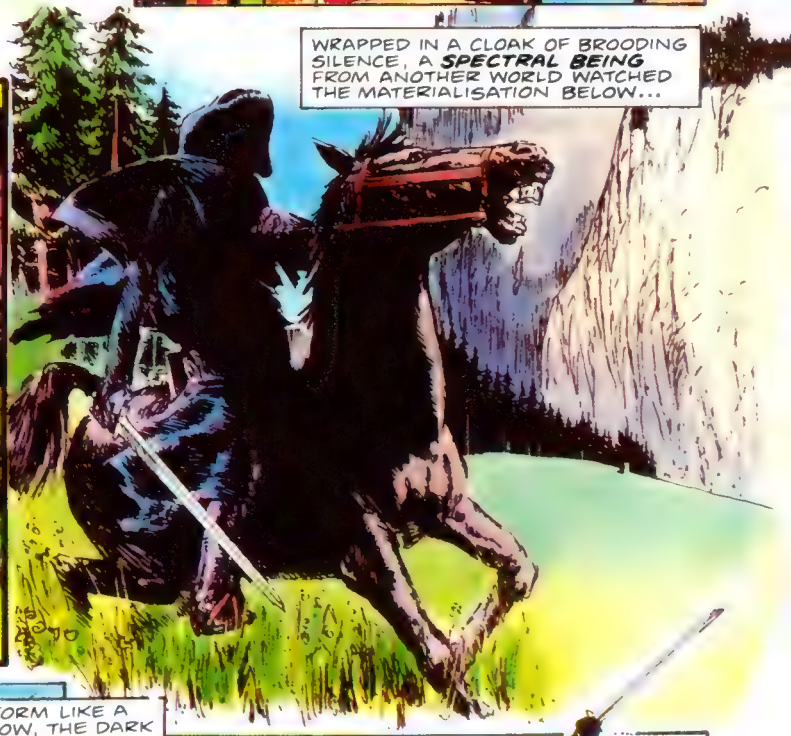




BUT CERTAINLY NO ARTIFACTS... CONURBATIONS... SETTLEMENTS. NO ROADS, NO VEHICLES, NO INDUSTRY... NO NOTHING.

THE SCANNERS APPEAR TO INDICATE THE SAME. AN **EMPTY** WORLD, DEVOID OF LIFE, LOVE, OR LUNACY...

NOTHING HERE TO INTEREST SOMEONE LIKE ASTROLABUS AT ALL!


WRAPPED IN A CLOAK OF BROODING SILENCE, A **SPECTRAL BEING** FROM ANOTHER WORLD WATCHED THE MATERIALISATION BELOW...

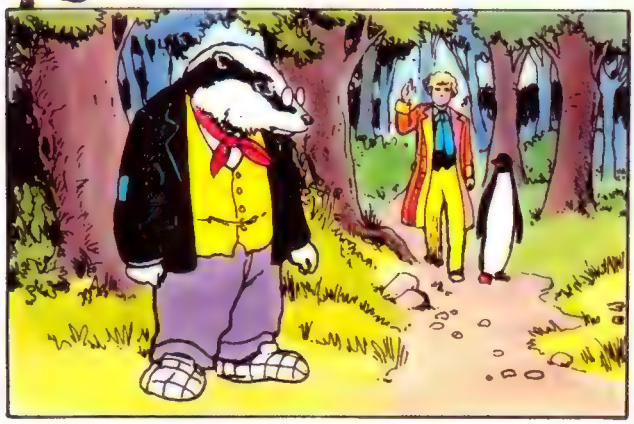
GATHERING FORM LIKE A GREAT SHADOW, THE DARK RIDER SPURRED HIS MOUNT FORWARD, SCARCELY DISTURBING THE MEADOWGRASS IN HIS PASSING...

NO SOUND OF HOOFBEATS BETRAYED HIS PRESENCE, ONLY THE SIBILANT WHISPER OF A SWORD UNSHEATHED...

...AND AN ICY GUST OF AIR THAT WRITHED LIKE THE CHILL FINGERS OF LONELY DEATH...
REACHING FOR THE DOCTOR!
HEY!
BY ELBERETH AND LUTHIEN THE FAIR, YOU SHALL HAVE NEITHER THE RING NOR ME!
PUBLIC CALL BOX
HOW STRANGE...NOW WHY ON EARTH SHOULD I SAY A THING LIKE THAT?
DOCTOR! DOCTOR! HEY, IT'S ME! I'M SAFE AND SOUND, AS YOU CAN SEE!
I'VE BEEN HAVING A LOVELY TIME, DOCTOR! COME AND MEET SOME OF MY MERRY CHUMS!
MERRY CHUMS? YOU'RE A GUTTERSNIPE FROM A SLUM ON SOME BACKWATER PLANET...YOU'VE NEVER HAD A MERRY CHUM IN YOUR LIFE!
I MEAN, I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND ALL THAT... BUT ASTROLABUS IS BEHIND THIS, AND I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS I COULD SPIT!
I'M NOT TOO SURE THAT ANY OF THIS IS REAL!

IS ANYTHING REAL IN THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE?
I TELL YOU THIS, MY FRIEND... IT'S AS REAL AS YOU WANT IT TO BE!
SEE WHAT I MEAN, DOC? IT'S JUST LIKE A STORY BOOK!
YES, I KNOW. BUT FAIRY STORIES HAVE THEIR DARK SIDE, AS WELL AS THE TINKERBELLS AND THE GINGERBREAD HOUSES...
AND HE'S RIGHT, TOO... ISN'T HE, KIDDIWINKS?
BUT WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS: WILL THEY OR WON'T THEY FIND THEIR WAY THROUGH THE WEIRD WILD WOOD?
WILL THE GREEDY GOBLINS GOBBLE THEM UP? OR WILL THEY STUMBLE UPON THE SEVEN-FOOT MARSH MANGLERS FROM XENE-PHOBE-12, WHOSE CRASHED SHIP LIES IN THE FOREST DEPTHS?
"OR WILL THEY FALL PREY TO THE HAND-HUNTERS OF GAMMA DELTA, WHOSE ONLY INTEREST IS IN MAKING NECKLACES FROM THEIR VICTIMS' FINGERS?"
NUTS AND RISINS
ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE, CHILDREN! SO ON WITH YOUR THINKING CAPS... AND LET THE STORY COMMENCE!
TAKE A TRIP TO THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEF

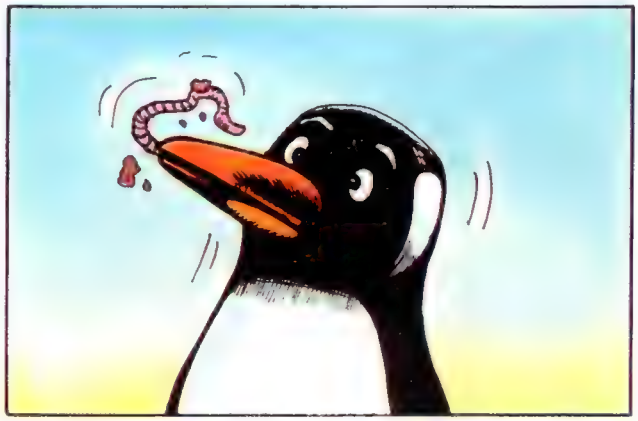
FROBISHER EATS A WORM



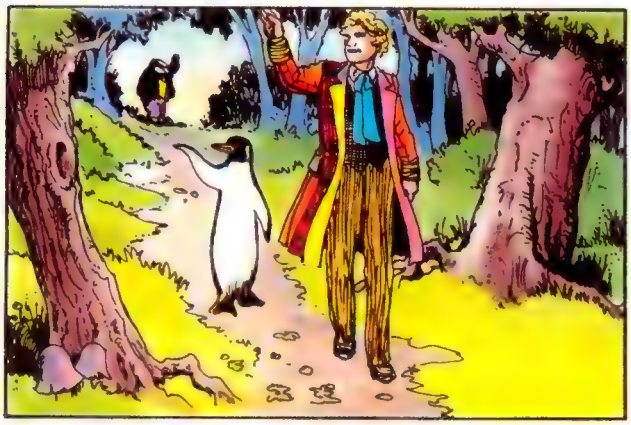
As down the forest path they went,
They met a furry woodland gent.

With Brock the Doctor shares a joke,
"You really are such pleasant folk,"

Says Badger, "I'll give you a treat,
A juicy worm for you to eat."



The Doc declines its earthy charms,
But Frobisher has no such qualms.



Another path the two pals spy,
And wave their new-found friend goodbye.

Suddenly to their surprise,
The shadows are alive with eyes.

The two friends walk on into the forest, and the first person they meet is a friendly old badger. "Good afternoon, Brock" says the Doctor. "Oh, good afternoon, Doctor," says Brock. "What brings you to this part of the Wild Wood?" "My legs," says the Doctor and Old Brock chortles good-naturedly. "Ho, ho! That's a good one," he wheezes, then offers the Doctor a huge fat earthworm for lunch. The Doctor declines politely, but Frobisher, who has quite forgotten that he hasn't eaten anything for hours, takes the wriggly worm and Gulp! down it goes with barely a shiver! Feeling slightly ill, the Doctor takes his leave of old Brock. He walks further and deeper into the Weird Wild Wood and Frobisher has to waddle quite fast to keep up with him.

Quite soon they both realise that they are being watched from the deep dark shadows.

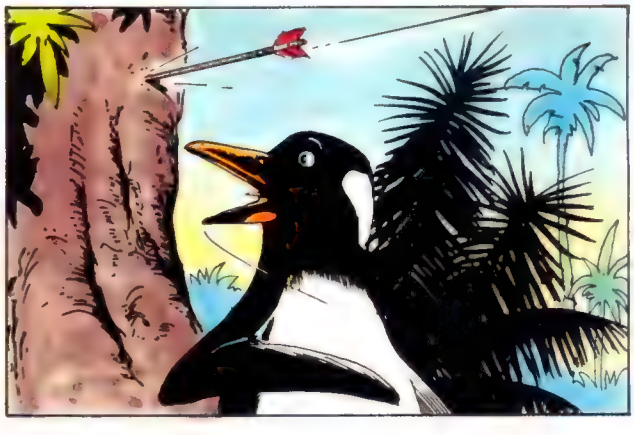
Once Upon a Time-Lord . . .

FROBISHER WISHES HE HADN'T

"Who's there?" the Doctor bravely cries,
But from the eyes there's no replies!

The Doctor tries to keep things cheerful,
Although his pal is looking tearful.

"Oh, Doctor look," the penguin groans,
"There's nothing here but skulls and bones!"



Next thing, an arrow whistles past,
"Let's skedaddle, Doc – and fast!"

"I'll catch you later, Doc!" he squeals,
And hightails it, as if on wheels!

Oh, no! He stepped into a noose,
"Help, somebody! Cut me loose!"

It really is a most uncomfortable feeling. "Who's there?" calls out the Doctor. But all that can be heard in reply is the merry tinkle of laughter, and the slight rattle of spears on shields. "Don't be nervous, old chap," laughs the Doctor, "It's only the little people who live in the woods." "Yes, Doctor," replies Frobisher. "But what kind of little people? It seems to me that they're the kind of p-people who like to p-pick up a p-penguin!

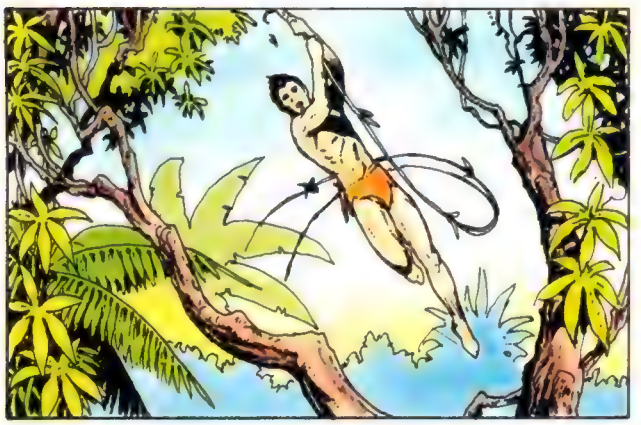
The Doctor swallows hard and wonders for the umpteenth time what he's got himself into. Just then, a small poison-tipped arrow thuds into a tree close by the penguin's head! Before the Doctor can say "What the. . ?" the web-footed wonder has taken off like an Olympic athlete! But after taking only a few steps, Frobisher puts his foot in a monkey trap and that's the end! He dangles like over-ripe fruit from the tall tree!

Once Upon a Time-Lord . . .

HE WHO HESITATES IS LUNCH

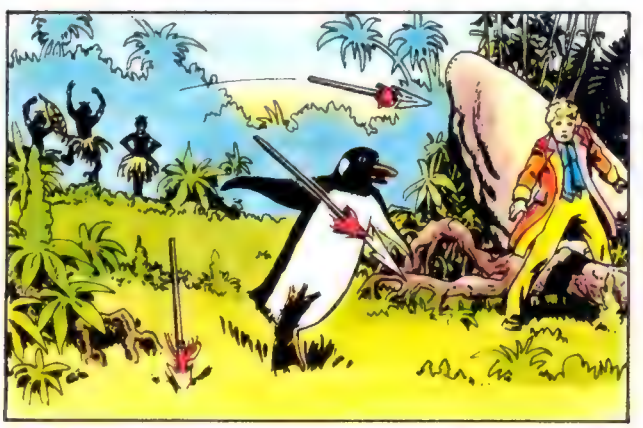
From the bushes hunters spring,
And tie his arms and legs with string.

These pygmies are the hungry kind,
They've got a penguin stew in mind!



Just as the Doctor gives up hope,
A figure swings down on a rope.

Then bounding over to a tree,
He cuts the little penguin free!



The hunters shout, boy are they sore,
Their lunch is on the run once more!

The Doctor lends a helping hand,
They leg it from that evil land.

The Doctor watches from the bushes as the little people make off with his chum tied to a pole. "Oh, no," groans the Doctor. "What are they going to do with him?" Soon he has his answer, for, as he watches from the bushes a fire is lit and a large cooking pot placed over it. "Don't they know they can't do that?" gasps the Doctor. "It would be too horrible, too tragic. Why, penguins taste awful and give you terrible heartburn!"

But just then a strange cry rings out and a figure comes swinging through the trees on a liana. He wears only a loincloth and carries a hunting knife. Landing beside Frobisher, he cuts the penguin free and bids him escape. Frobisher does not need telling twice, he has already seen the penguin stock cubes in the pygmy chef's store cupboard! The two friends run as fast as they can from that terrible place.

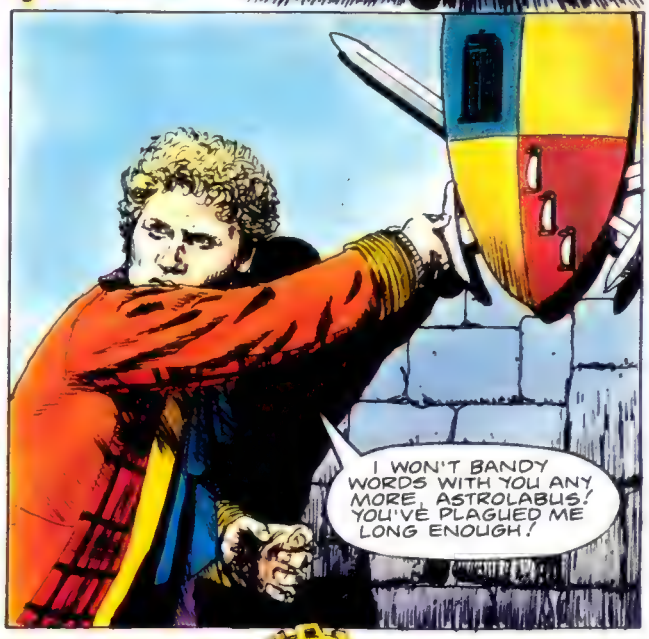
WHAT'S GOING ON, DOC? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?!
I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT IN CONTROL!
HOGAN
"OH, COME NOW, CHILDREN. SURELY YOU CAN THINK OF SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS. HOW ABOUT SOMETHING REALLY DANGEROUS?"
THE CASTLE! WE'LL TRY AND HEAD FOR THE CASTLE! WE MAY FIND THE ANSWER THERE!
"AAH, THAT LOOKS MORE INTERESTING..."
"MUCH MORE INTERESTING!"
GRAAAAH!
?
AAAAGH!
CHAAKK
DOC! I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
JUST KEEP RUNNING...
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TO THE CASTLE!

FASTER! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE!
GASP! I'M EXHAUSTED, DOC! I JUST CAN'T WADDLE ANY MORE! I'M ALL WADDLED OUT!
KEEP MOVING! ASTROLABUS HAS LIMITED POWERS AS A MAGICIAN... HE'LL GET BORED SOON, THEN WE CAN TAKE CONTROL!
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
FROBISHER! DUCK!
TWOIK!
WHIZZ
EEEK!
CLANG!
ZUT! PREPOSTEROUS! THIS DOCTOR CATCHES ON QUICK! OH, OUT-RAGEOUS FORTUNE... HE HAS THE POWER...

...BUT THE GLORY IS MINE! EVEN NOW I HEAR HIS FOOTSTEPS POUNDING ON MY STAIR...

...ANY MINUTE NOW HE'LL BURST THROUGH THE DOOR AND SAY...
KNAVE! VARLET! VAGABOND! CAITIFF! WRETCH! RASCAL!
RAPSCALLION! BLACKGUARD! SHYSTER! SKUNK! CUR! TYRANT! FIEND! CAD! 603 n. TERGIVERSATOR!

SO! YOU'VE BEEN AT THE THESAURUS AGAIN! YOU CUT ME TO THE QUICK! I HAD HOPED MY SPECIAL QUALITIES WOULD HAVE DRAGGED SOME ORIGINALITY FROM YOU, DOCTOR! PFUI!


I WON'T BANDY WORDS WITH YOU ANY MORE, ASTROLABUS! YOU'VE PLAGUED ME LONG ENOUGH!

GET OUT OF MY MIND! GET OUT OF MY LIFE!

FOLLY! ALL IS FOLLY! WE TRY AND ESCAPE A FATE THAT IS TIED TO OUR HEELS. WE CAST OUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE AND OUR FATE TO THE WINDS... AND FOR WHAT? AN ILLUSION OF FREEDOM?
COME, SIR... LET US STAND AND FIGHT LIKE MEN! AVAUNT!

HAVE AT THEE, SIR! HAVE AT THEE! TAKE THAT! AND THAT!

AAAAGH!
SSSSKKKK!

UUHH!
SO THAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER! THE MISSING STAR CHARTS!

AAAAH! THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG! THE BEANS ARE SPILLED! WARP FACTOR ONE, MR. SULU!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! HE'S ESCAPING THROUGH A DIMENSION GATE! BUT THIS TIME I'M RIGHT BEHIND HIM!

I'LL GET YOU ASTROLABUS! IF I HAVE TO CHASE YOU THROUGH TIME, SPACE AND HELL ITSELF... SO HELP ME I'LL GET YOU!
YEEE-HAARR!

IF I CAN ONLY... REACH... YOU... I'LL WRING... YOUR... SCRAWNY... NECK!
WHEEEEEE!

UP THE GARDEN PATH, EH?! NOT IF I CAN HELP IT! YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED, ASTROLABUS! I'M COMING TO GET YOU!
GASP!

GOT TO... GET THROUGH... DOOR. SHORT CUT TO... NEXT PAGE...

MADE IT! I'M IN THE CLEAR! OUT IN THE OPEN! UNTRAMMELLED! UNSHACKLED! FREE!
IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT TO THE NEXT EPISODE!
BUT WHAT'S THIS? I FEEL A POWER GREATER THAN MY OWN! I'M LOSING CONTROL! IT'S TAKING OVER! BY ODIN'S BEARD... QUE PASA?
OH, NO! IT CAN'T BE!! NOT AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME! PLEASE! SAY IT ISN'T SO!

FROM THE DEPTHS OF TIME AND NIGHT THE VOYAGER CAME... DUST DEVILS WHORLED AT HIS FEET AND THE STARS WHEELED...
INFINITY WAS IN HIS GAZE... SO THAT HE SEEMED UNHEEDFUL OF THE TABLEAU BEFORE HIM.
UNTIL HE SPOKE...
RETURN TO ME THAT WHICH WAS MINE...
NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM! THEY'RE LOST! GONE! DISPARU! KAPUT! FINITO BANDITO!
GONE... ALL GONE...
YOU MISERABLE WRETCH! YOU'RE LYING IN YOUR TEETH!
THE CHARTS ARE TATTOOED ALL OVER YOU! YOU ARE THE CHARTS!
MERCY!
YOU STOLE THE SACRED CHARTS FOR THE SECRETS AND THE POWER THEY CONTAINED. FOR ACCESS TO THE LAST, THE MOST MYSTERIOUS DIMENSION OF ALL...
THE DIMENSION OF DEATH!

YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH!
DEATH WILL BE YOUR DOMINION!
A HURRICANE FORCE HURTLED ACROSS THE BARREN GROUND... A STORM OF ROCKS, DEBRIS AND DUST THAT HOWLED LIKE A VENGEFUL SPIRIT...
IT SHRIEKED IN THE MAD MAGICIAN'S EARS... IT'S TALONS TORE HIS EYES ... STOLE HIS BREATH... REACHED FOR HIS VERY SOUL!
THERE WERE DUST DEVILS IN THE STORM! WITH TEETH OF JAGGED STONE THAT RIPPED HIS FLESH! A GALE OF BLADES! A WIND OF KNIVES!
HIS SCREAMS WERE LOST IN ITS SHRIEKING FURY!

THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY, THE WIND DIED... AND WAS GONE... ONLY A HOARSE WHISPER COULD BE HEARD IN ITS PASSING...
I HAVE CLAIMED THAT WHICH IS MINE... YOU ARE FREE NOW, TIMELORD...
YOU ARE FREE...
IT'S GONE... THE PRESENCE THAT HAUNTED MY MIND... HAS GONE. I AM FREE...
DOCTOR...
WHY, ASTROLABUS? WHY? WHY DID YOU DABBLE IN ILLUSIONS, WHEN YOU COULD HAVE GAINED REAL POWER?
THIS WAS MY... LAST... INCARNATION, DOCTOR.
I WANTED... IMMORTALITY...
SO YOU TRIED TO STEAL IT? YOU'RE MAD, MY FRIEND...
MAGNIFICENT. BUT QUITE, QUITE MAD.
SUCH A SHAME... DOCTOR... THAT YOU HAD NO INTEREST... IN MY POWERS. YOU WOULD HAVE MADE ... A WORTHY... SUCCESSOR...
YOU WERE JUST GETTING... THE HANG OF IT!
I FOLLOW NOBODY, ASTROLABUS. I'M FREE... I GO MY OWN WAY!
AAH, DOCTOR... HOW CAN YOU KNOW?
HOW CAN YOU KNOW... HOW LONG... I HAVE BEEN WRITING YOUR LIFE?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
NOW THAT I'M...
GONE?

WOW! WHAT AN EXIT!
HEY, DOC! YOU RESCUED ME!
D'YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DOCTOR? I'D LIKE TO LOOK AROUND WHILE WE'RE HERE. I HAVEN'T SEEN A CARNIVAL SINCE I WAS A...
WELL... NOT FOR AGES, ANYWAY.
THE TATTOOED MAN
A PROFUSION OF PICTURES
HOW ABOUT THE TATTOOED MAN?
100% COVERAGE
A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
ENCYCLOPEDIC EPIDERMIS
I DON'T THINK SO.
I'D MUCH RATHER GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
JOHN RIDGWAY
THE END.

Freed from the restrictions of casting from the varied but ultimately physically conventional membership of Equity, the 'Frobisher' stories and characters have always delighted me. The Doctor is taken into an imaginative universe unfortunately denied those writers menaced with the knowledge of a BBC Television budget.

I am on record as being a fan of Frobisher, the shape-shifter who decided to stay 'a penguin' for a while 'for personal reasons' – never explained! And it's probably better left unexplained! As a companion, Frobisher gives as good as he gets, a luxury denied most of the Doctor's tv Companions, and has a nice line in irreverent wit.

Whilst the Doctor's character remains true to his tv image, it is refreshing to find the Doctor and Frobisher as residents of a 'parallel universe' and to spot all the verbal and pictorial references to other worlds of imaginative fiction, and, indeed, our own (even more unbelievable) world! And Astrolabus was such a beguiling adversary that I hope his demise was only yet another chimera! Messrs Parkhouse, Ridgway & McKenzie – thank you! The Doctor would approve.

"One can Marvel at Polly the Glot
And Astrolabus' wiles, but there's not
A more 'intergalactical' thrill
Than a Vworp Vworp with a Whifferdill!"

Colin Baker

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